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Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Iraq will totally reject any attempt to undermine its "full sovereignty" over the Shatt al-'Arab and "the Iranian side must appreciate this fact and act accordingly in order to promote a just and lasting peace," Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi announced in a statement carried by INA 28 August. The 1975 Algiers agreement "no longer exists," the minister declared, adding that Iran should be "realistic" and agree to work on drawing up a new agreement.

While Iran is currently calling for adherence to the Algiers agreement, it previously did not respect its most important clauses and this "obliged Iraq to abrogate that agreement after Iranian conduct rendered it useless." Hammadi claimed Iran is the side stalling for time by "placing obstacles and pretexts and giving false interpretations and explanations" to UN Resolution 598.

Reacting to the Iraqi statement, which was distributed during the fourth round of talks in Geneva, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the 1975 agreement as "permanent, unchangeable, and decisive," and he said it cannot be unilaterally abrogated by one side, according to IRNA. Velayati accused Iraq of seeking to deadlock the talks by raising "irrelevant" issues such as full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and dredging the waterway before the withdrawal of forces.

At the end of the fourth round of the talks, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar acknowledged there are "unexpected difficulties" over the first paragraph of the UN resolution, which calls for the withdrawal of forces to internationally accepted borders, KUNA reported. Perez de Cuellar noted that no further ministerial-level talks are scheduled for 29 August, but talks will continue "at a technical level." Tehran radio likewise reported the secretary general's remark that the talks have reached a "difficult" stage, and INA cited him as saying he is "not optimistic but realistic" as the negotiations are "difficult" and the issues "cannot be settled within a matter of days."

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i had earlier stressed that Iran is "not very happy with the progress made up to now," warning that Iraq's position could make the negotiations a "total failure." Speaking in a 27 August interview with Tehran radio, Khamene'i called for the full implementation of the Algiers Agreement, which "maintains its credibility and remains in force" and is "the only treaty which can be implemented." Khamene'i emphasized that Iran will not accept Iraqi "bullying" and he called on Perez de Cuellar to "act more forcefully and more authoritatively" to ensure that the Iraqis comply with Resolution 598.

In another development, a Tehran radio commentary contended that the UN Security Council's 26 August condemnation of the use of chemical weapons (CW) in the war was "ineffective," adding that this may encourage the Iraqi regime to continue its "crimes." The radio accused Iraq of continuing to use CW against Iraqi Kurds and a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party cited by IRNA announced that Iraqi aircraft used CW against 10 Kurdish villages in northern Iraq 25 August. The attacks killed 88 civilians and injured around 500 others, the spokesman claimed. The Turkish agency ANATOLIA disclosed that an Iraqi warplane dropped bombs on a Turkish village near the Iraqi border the same day, creating "panic" but causing no casualties.

For Iraq's part, INA reported a number of alleged Iranian cease-fire violations during recent days.

Iran

Postwar Foreign Relations and the Internal Situation—During talks in Tehran with the Iranian minister of economic and financial affairs, the Soviet ambassador stressed his country's readiness to assist in Iran's postwar reconstruction and suggested that a Soviet delegation of experts visit Iran, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, the Libyan ambassador informed an Iranian deputy foreign minister of Libya's desire to expand ties with Iran following the latter's "bold and commendable" decision to accept UN Resolution 598, the agency noted.

In a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, President Khamene'i stressed that Iran will need to use foreign knowledge, expertise, and resources in its postwar reconstruction.

Among various outside reports on the internal situation, Iran's Flag of Freedom radio claimed that Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was injured in the eye during a recent attempt to assassinate him. The clandestine opposition radio maintained the assassination plot was ordered by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Pakistan

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan told the nation in a 26 August address broadcast by Islamabad radio that the government is determined to hold the elections on schedule in a "free, impartial, and peaceful manner," and he stressed there will be "no deviation" from the Constitution and democratic traditions when power is transferred after the vote. Warning that Pakistan's enemies have resorted to "rumormongering" in an effort to create "disintegration" and to sow "suspicion and mistrust," he urged Pakistani media to refrain from spreading rumors and from indulging in "baseless speculation."

Ishaq Khan stressed the present government will continue the path of seeking to establish a society based "on Islamic lines," noting arrangements will be made to establish an Islamic judicial system that will be "easy, inexpensive, and speedy." The government will also take steps to strengthen the country's security and to improve the economy and law and order situation. On foreign policy, he said Pakistan will continue to strive for a final solution of the Afghan problem in accordance with the Geneva Accords, to fulfill its obligations to Afghan refugees, and to seek friendly relations with its neighbors.

Opposition parties staged a rally in Quetta over the weekend during which they demanded that the present government be replaced by a caretaker administration to supervise the November election, Delhi radio reported. The opposition is also demanding that parties be allowed to contest the elections and that political prisoners be released, the radio noted.

Afghanistan

The Armed Forces have been "temporarily deployed" in Bamian after "armed extremist groups" used "heavy weapons, plunder, and subversion" to "pressure" the province, Kabul radio announced. "Contacts" are underway with a "number of armed opposition groups" to form a "coalition administration" in Bamian, the radio stated, and the city's "elders" requested that their region be "declared neutral."

A number of districts and regions, including Sar-e Pol and Nurestan, will be declared "coalition or neutral zones" on the basis of "understanding and negotiation" with "armed opposition groups" and "influential people," according to an address by President Najibullah at the opening session of the Meli Shura carried by Kabul radio.

"Criminal extremists" killed 4 and wounded 12 persons in a 27 August surface-to-surface rocket attack on Kabul, Kabul radio reported. "Half of 127 missiles fired" fell on the airport area and the Soviet Army headquarters there, killing 5 persons and "severely" injuring 8 Soviet servicemen, TASS disclosed.

Mujahidin inflicted "heavy damage" during attacks in Parvan, Konarha, and Nangarhar Provinces, Islamabad radio asserted. Islamic Party leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar told a group of journalists in Pakistan that the conflict has reached a "decisive stage," IRNA noted. Hikmatyar said the provincial capitals of Konduz, Bamian, and Takhar are under "full control" of the rebels, who are "about to triumph."

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil met with a Soviet Foreign Ministry official during a 2-day visit to Moscow, TASS reported.

Israel

The Foreign Ministry expressed "dissatisfaction" with the UN Security Council resolution criticizing Israel's plan to deport more Palestinians, Jerusalem radio reported. Israel believes the UN resolution ignores its security needs and its responsibility for the security of inhabitants of the territories, the radio added. In an interview with the radio, an IDF military judge confirmed Israel intends to deport 25 West Bank Arabs, noting that 16 of the 25 have served prison terms, while 5 have spent time under administrative detention.

In another development over the weekend, Israeli police closed the East Jerusalem offices of the Federation of West Bank Charitable Associations and of the publication AL-HAYAH, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The charity was allegedly used to bring PLO funds into the territories, while AL-HAYAH is said to represent the PFLP. Police had earlier closed down the Bayt Hanina union offices because of their links with "terror organizations," the radio noted.

Meanwhile, eight Gaza residents and five West Bankers were wounded in clashes with the IDF 27 August, according to reports by Jerusalem radio and THE JERUSALEM POST. Two more Arabs were injured 28 August when an Israeli civilian fired at stonethrowers in Qalqilyah, the radio reported. A Nabulus youth died from injuries sustained in an earlier clash with the IDF, the radio said.

PLO Affairs

After meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva 27 August, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar noted that the PLO is considering the idea of submitting a resolution to the PNC calling for the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government, Radio Monte Carlo reported. 'Arafat confirmed to journalists after the meeting that a declaration of an independent Palestinian "state" depends on a PNC resolution, according to INA.

'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif predicted that a provisional government will be announced during the PNC session in Algiers "next month," Radio Monte Carlo noted. However, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated earlier that the PNC will be postponed until after September pending wider discussions among Palestinian leaders, the radio disclosed.

Syria

The Soviet Union will supply Syria with the Sukhoy-24 "assault fighter" plane, according to a report in the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD cited by MENA. "Reliable military sources" told the paper that Syria also "recently received" a "second batch" of MiG-29 aircraft, MENA

added. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas and a group of "senior officers" inspected a Soviet aircraft carrier making a port call at Latakia, Damascus television reported.

President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, to discuss "current developments in the Lebanese arena," Damascus radio noted.

Beirut's AL-SHIRA' reported the arrest of 300 Palestinian inhabitants of Syrian refugee camps as part of a "campaign" conducted by the authorities since the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed.

Lebanon

A rocket launched near the Syrian Forces command in West Beirut "missed its target" and killed a lawyer in his home nearby, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. The "Khalil 'Akkawi forces" of the 9 February Organization claimed responsibility for three explosions 26 August against Syrian positions in West Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced.

Maronite Patriarch Butrus Sfayr met with Anglican Bishop John Brown to discuss the fate of British hostages, Voice of Lebanon radio indicated. Commenting on the talks, Bishop Brown said he is "optimistic" and the situation is "promising," the radio added.

Kuwait

The Defense Ministry issued a statement announcing the purchase of 40 of "the most sophisticated" U.S. F-18 fighter aircraft and their "accessories," including Maverick antitank and antiship missiles, KUNA disclosed.

Egypt

Government authorities "seized" the 28 August edition of the weekly newspaper SAWT AL-SHA'B to prevent it from publishing an "anti-government editorial," according to sources at the paper cited by AFP. President Husni Mubarak had recently criticized the Nasirite newspaper for "seriously undermining" Egypt's interests by "indiscriminately attacking its friends," AFP noted.

A "responsible Interior Ministry source" said reports by an "Arab news agency" that security authorities are investigating an assassination attempt against a "rich Saudi" are "completely false and groundless," MENA reported.

The government has demanded that Iran release Egyptian POW's as a prelude to beginning talks on the resumption of relations, AL-MAJALLAH revealed.

Egypt will "scrap" the Camp David peace treaty if Israel refuses to abide by the international arbitrator's decision on Tabah, according to a "leading Egyptian politician" cited by KUNA.

Libya

The "Anti-Imperialist Court of Latin America and the Caribbean" convened in Tripoli to "try" U.S. President Ronald Reagan "for the abortive U.S.-NATO aggression of April 1986," JANA announced. The "criminal and civil writ" was served against Reagan "personally" by the Libyan people who "requested" he be tried at the "international court against imperialism," JANA maintained. The writ seeks condemnation of Reagan and the U.S. Administration and demands compensation for "material and morale losses," JANA explained.

Western Sahara

The SDAR Government will reply to the UN secretary general's peace proposal "within the week" amidst a "very encouraging international climate," a Polisario representative told Paris radio. He said the Polisario accepted the UN proposal on census and identification but added the Moroccan Administration and the presence of its armed forces are the "obstacles" to "reconciliation."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Perez de Cuellar Interviewed on Iraq-Iran Talks

PM2508104888 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Aug 88 p 4

[Interview with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Jacques Amalric in Geneva—date not given]

[Text] [Amalric] How do you explain the current UN resurgence?

[Perez de Cuellar] One of the reasons is what is known as detente between the United States and the USSR. If two countries which had so many military, political, and ideological disputes are talking to each other, why should other countries which have problems in their relations not succeed in doing so? I thought that this new atmosphere created by the two superpowers was a unique opportunity for me.

It is a matter of flair and instinct. When you see circumstances are favorable, you must forge ahead. That is what I did in the Iran-Iraq affair as soon as the Iranians accepted Resolution 598, although the Iraqis were not very pleased. I immediately sent a mission to the area. If I had hesitated we would not have reached the present position.

[Amalric] What is the present position?

[Perez de Cuellar] It will all depend on the political will of those involved. If they really want to solve the problem, it may just take a few months, otherwise it could drag on for years and I would then have to appoint a personal representative to follow the negotiations. In that case I would look for a prominent political figure who is not a UN official and who is from a neutral country. (Footnote 1) (Mr Perez de Cuellar did not discuss the matter with us, but there is talk in Geneva of two prominent Swiss politicians: Pierre Aubert, former head of the Foreign Affairs Department, and Edouard Bruner, Swiss secretary of state for foreign affairs.)

In the next few days I will try to establish a mechanism for negotiations between Iran and Iraq. It will not be easy, for instance, to discuss the 1975 Algiers treaty which was intended to settle the division of the Shatt al-'Arab waters. This could all take time but it is a process which I want to launch instead of leaving the Iranians and Iraqis alone together. We will also have to solve the problem of troop withdrawal; I will then have to consult the former warring sides on the composition of the body which is to determine who was responsible for the conflict.

I say "consult," but I will make the decision because, according to Resolution 598, I do not need their agreement and I already have some ideas. (Footnote 2) (There is talk in Geneva of a committee comprising three prominent figures: one appointed by Baghdad, one by Tehran, and the third by Mr Perez de Cuellar.)

I will also have to set up a group of experts to assess the war damage but not reparations. The word "reparations" is not mentioned in Resolution 598. I must also consult the Gulf countries on security in the region and, finally, settle the matter of prisoners of war, which I estimate at 80,000.

[Amalric] But surely the start of a settlement to this conflict cannot be attributed solely to the new climate in U.S.-Soviet relations?

[Perez de Cuellar] That is true. The Security Counil took action in the Iran-Iraq affair in an unprecedented way. In mid-January 1987 I appealed to the council members, especially to the five permanent members, to examine this conflict. A few days later I invited them to my office and put my ideas to them. They then set to work; it was a laborious task but they continued to have contacts with each other for 5 months until they agreed on the text of Resolution 598 in July 1987. Of course, they were in constant contact with me.

It was a case of unprecedented cooperation between the Security Council and the secretary general. I acted rather like the sixth permanent member of the Security Council. Of course, we consulted with the other 10 nonpermanent members. This had the advantage that the 10 included 3 very important countries—Japan, West Germany, and Italy. This shows how much political influence the Security Council had at the time.

[Amalric] Could this method be used in the Israeli-Arab conflict?

[Perez de Cuellar] I would like to use the same process in the Iran-Iraq affair. If I could obtain agreement from the Security Council members on starting to discuss the Near East problem, it would be great progress. But I think we will have to wait until after the Israeli and U.S. elections. The situation has changed completely with the Jordanian king's decision, but we must remain vigilant while not treading on anybody's toes, because this is a matter in which we have rivals and the United Nations cannot compete with member countries. The United States made an effort with the Shultz mission, but I have the impression that it failed. I will try to find the right time to take action. This is a matter of great concern to me.

Afghanistan: A Difficult Phase

[Amalric] What is your assessment of the Afghan affair?

[Perez de Cuellar] I will be honest: We have been used by the superpowers. Our role was important. We prepared the ground, but it was thanks to the determination shown by Moscow and Washington to end the war that we

succeeded. At the same time, we proved we could be an ideal tool for implementing an agreement reached by the superpowers. Did we not save face for each side?

At present everything is going well from our viewpoint: The Soviets have kept their promises; they withdrew 50 percent of their troops by 15 August, as they promised to do. But the second part of the program will be much more difficult, because I think that they will maintain the bulk of their contingent until the end, in other words until February 1989—the deadline for their withdrawal. President Ziaul Haq's death is likely to encourage them to do so, and they may be counting on a considerable reduction in Pakistani aid for the resistance. I am not sure, but I think this is what they are thinking.

However, the Afghan political problem will remain unchanged. What will happen? Will the Najibullah government be able to survive? What precise role will be played by the Soviet political and military advisers who will remain in the country after the Red Army's withdrawal?

"Ready To Go to South Africa"

[Amalric] What do you think of the crisis in southern Africa?

[Perez de Cuellar] The two superpowers have agreed to exert their influence—not to say pressure—on the Cubans and Angolans on the one hand and on the South Africans, on the other. Of course, there are other factors involved: South Africa is beginning to feel military pressure and growing diplomatic isolation and is thinking of finding a solution. We immediately placed ourselves at the disposal of the various sides and that is why I now have a representative at the Brazzaville negotiations and why I have been invited to visit South Africa.

I am prepared to go there, but I must first see what happens in Brazzaville. If the warring sides agree on a reasonable timetable for withdrawing the Cuban forces, the door will be open. For the time being, the positions range from the 7 or 8 months proposed by Pretoria, to the 3 years demanded by Luanda. There could be a reasonable compromise on 18 months or 2 years.

[Amalric] Which factor was more crucial: the improvement in American-Soviet relations or Pretoria's difficulties?

[Perez de Cuellar] The two factors combined with one other. Detente made it possible to exert pressures on both sides. On the other hand the huge strengthening of the Cuban presence in the region created a real problem for the South Africans in southern Angola. It forced them to reflect. It is perhaps because of that that they want me to visit. My condition for going there is that my presence be useful and not manipulated.

China and Khmer Rouge

[Amalric] Do Washington and Moscow seem to you to be willing to exert the same kind of pressures to reach an agreement on Cambodia?

[Perez de Cuellar] With regard to Cambodia I have presented the sides concerned with some fairly detailed ideas for peace but have allowed them a great deal of leeway. This approach seems to have been well received on all sides. The idea was this: "If you need me, here I am." But if this problem is resolved some day, it will be thanks to a Sino-Soviet accord.

[Text] [Amalric] What about the Khmer Rouge?

[Perez de Cuellar] The major problem is that without the Khmer Rouge the resistance would disappear and that with them there is a risk of having in power a government condemned by the international community. How can they be eliminated? There is the idea of a UN force to supervise the various political tendencies in Cambodia, but it would not resolve the issue of Khmer Rouge participation in government. On the other hand the Chinese have made it known on several occasions that the Khmer Rouge would agree to perform a merely symbolic role in a coalition government and that Pol Pot could disappear from the scene. However, it is those people's mentality that poses the problem that is dangerous.

Our friend Sihanouk's ability could achieve a great deal, though there can be no solution without the agreement of the Chinese. We cannot advance until China adopts a clear stance. It would be a huge responsibility for the United Nations if we were asked to provide a peacekeeping force. Already in Namibia our projects will cost $600-700 million. Who will pick up the tab? I do not know—not to mention the cost of our operation in the Sahara, if it is approved.

Good and Bad Payers

[Amalric] What is the United Nation's financial status?

[Perez de Cuellar] Our situation is very bad and will be worse in October unless the United States pays what it owes, which amounts to over half-a-billion dollars. It has made promises but not set any dates, so they are empty promises. President Reagan must now certify in writing that the organization's reforms are going ahead. However, I agree to concern myself only with the issue of a reduction of the organization's expenditure and not with a reduction of intergovernmental programs, which are not under my control. The United States also demands that henceforth Soviet UN officials' contracts be long-term, not for 1 year only. The USSR has accepted the principle but this point has not yet been implemented.

Be that as it may, as I told President Reagan, I cannot accept all these conditions. You are not legally entitled to tell someone to whom you owe $1,000: "I will only repay you if you change the color of your housefront or if you change your furniture."

[Amalric] What is the situation concerning Soviet debts?

[Perez de Cuellar] The USSR has promised to repay its debts in three installments, the first of which it has already paid. If we are able to function now, we owe the fact to the West European countries, Canada, and Japan, who paid this year's contribution very promptly.

[Amalric] How would you describe the new Soviet attitude toward the United Nations?

[Perez de Cuellar] The Soviets suddenly discovered that the United Nations is a very important sphere of political activity, not simply a propaganda forum. They saw the Americans turning their backs on the United Nations and are taking advantage of the fact. They want to use this mechanism. Unfortunately the United States has refused to do so.

The same old misunderstanding still exists: People believe that the United Nations wants exclusive rights to resolving all international problems. It is not true. Some problems need a bilateral approach; others, a regional approach. However, there are also problems that demand an international approach.

The Iran-Iraq conflict, for instance, needed an international approach, since there was no hope of a bilateral settlement and the regional approach failed with the efforts of the Islamic Conference and the nonaligned countries.

With regard to the Western Saharan issue, however, we have achieved a good combination of international and regional approaches. It must not be believed that the United Nations wants to settle every problem, still less that its secretary general is such a masochist as to want to tackle every issue himself.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO 'About To Announce' Independent State

JN2808071188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The PLO is about to announce an independent Palestinian state recognizing the State of Israel within the pre-1967 borders. Announcing this, Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the PLO chairman, also said: We have a people and a territory and by forming a government we will be meeting the necessary conditions to establish an independent state.

PLO officials have already indicated that the Palestinians are preparing to form a provisional government comprising pro-'Arafat figures and some young activists to manage the affairs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Abu Sharif noted that the provisional government will be announced during the PNC session in Algiers next month. However, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said that the PNC session will be held after September.

Asked if he could guarantee the international community's recognition of a provisional Palestinian government, Abu Sharif answered in the affirmative saying: Some 115 states have recognized the PLO and there is no doubt that the number of states that will recognize our provisional government will be more than those recognizing Israel.

'Arafat, UN's Perez de Cuellar Meet in Geneva

Abu Sharif Comments

JN2608140988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Aug 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (WAKH)—A prominent Palestinian official has described the meeting scheduled to be held between UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva tomorrow as very important and related to the future of the Palestine question.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad today, Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said that the meeting comes at a time when the Palestine question acquires a special importance on both Arab and international levels and on the eve of the important PNC session which is scheduled to be held in Algiers next month.

Abu Sharif said that during the meeting, a number of issues will be raised concerning the role of the United Nations in securing protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, suspending the deportations of Palestinians, and securing guarantees for the UN agencies for the relief of Palestinians.

It was recently announced in Geneva that Perez de Cuellar will meet with 'Arafat and will discuss a number of issues with him.

Abu Sharif said that during his meeting with Perez de Cuellar, 'Arafat will raise the issue of the role of the United Nations in expediting the convocation of an international conference to secure the Palestinian people's rights in light of UN resolutions.

'Arafat will also raise the issue of securing UN forces to protect the Palestinian citizens who are being subjected to the fiercest fascist campaign by the Israeli occupation forces.

Abu Sharif stressed that the PLO adheres to its demand calling for securing UN forces to protect the population of the occupied territories until the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state is established.

Abu Sharif indicated that 'Arafat will afterward hold a series of extremely important meetings in Geneva and outside Switzerland. He said Yasir 'Arafat will deliver a speech at the European Parliament on 12 September within the PLO plan for international moves.

He said the PLO announced 4 days ago its responsibility for the civil servants in the occupied territories who have been affected by Jordan's West Bank administrative and legal disengagement decision.

In his statement to the WAKH correspondent, Bassam Abu Sharif affirmed that in previous years Israel failed to prevent PLO sponsorship of Palestinians inside the occupied land.

He stressed that Israel's new attempts and verbal threats to hinder the transfer of funds to Palestinian civil servants will fail. However, Abu Sharif refused to give more details about this subject.

On the other hand, the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad learned from Arab diplomatic sources that the upcoming meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Javier Perez de Cuellar is at the request of the latter.

These sources said Perez de Cuellar stressed the meeting several times—the latest of which was during his meeting with PLO UN representative Zuhdi al-Tarazi last Monday.

The sources said that 'Arafat's major reservation about the meeting was due to lack of conviction on the part of the PLO leader in the possibility of reaching tangible results regarding the Palestinian rights during the meeting.

It is noteworthy that 'Arafat previously announced that he will deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly in its new session, which begins next month.

'Arafat Seeks UN Assistance

JN2808062988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Geneva]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat announced that he informed UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar of the practical steps the PLO has taken following the Jordanian measures to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. These practical steps come as an affirmation of the Palestinian people's sovereignty on their homeland's soil. 'Arafat said that he affirmed to the secretary general that the PLO will shoulder its full responsibilities toward the Palestinian people regardless of the difficulties that are facing it on all levels.

'Arafat arrived in Geneva to sound Perez de Cuellar on the political and material assistance the United Nations could extend to the Palestinian people and on the status of the occupied territory during this critical phase.

Following a 90-minute meeting with 'Arafat, Perez de Cuellar said that the PLO is considering the idea of presenting to the PNC a resolution to establish a provisional Palestinian government. He said that 'Arafat discussed with him everything that the United Nations could do to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territory and ease their conditions. He said that 'Arafat voiced his grave concern over the conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territory.

Perez de Cuellar reiterated to 'Arafat his eagerness to continue his efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East within the UN framework and to assist the Palestinians through UNRWA.

The spotlights that were focused Saturday on the Palestinian issue and the UN secretary general's proposals on holding a referendum in the West Bank are now being rediverted to the Gulf peace talks, which are still stuck at square one; namely, the attempts to define a cease-fire line on land and at sea in the Shatt al-'Arab area.

'Arafat praised Perez de Cuellar's role in establishing peace in the Gulf. He told the UN secretary general that there is now an opportunity to deal with regional issues, especially since an end to the Iraq-Iran war will reflect on the realization of a just solution to the Palestinian problem. 'Arafat also affirmed to Perez de Cuellar the importance of convening an international conference to deal with the Middle East issue and the Palestinian problem.

Decision on Government Awaits Israeli Election

LD2608175588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1635 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, Aug 26 (KUNA)—A final Palestinian decision on the Palestinian government-in-exile is not likely to be taken by the Palestinian leadership until the end of the Israeli general elections next November, an informed Palestinian source said here Friday.

The source said the PLO Executive Committee, which will meet here today or tomorrow, will give priority for a political program on the basis of which the Palestinian next steps would be carried out.

The source added that the PLO leadership is taking into consideration the 24th statement of the unified national leadership of the uprising which recommended studying all aspects relating to the declaration of a Palestinian government before embarking on such a step.

The statement also called for adopting a clear political program that ensures international support to the Palestinian national rights.

PLO's Khalaf Confirms PNC Meeting Postponed

JN2708144088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] today affirmed in Tunis that the PNC meeting will be postponed until after this September to provide a chance for wider Arab, international, and Palestinian discussions. He explained that the PLO Executive Committee members are discussing the PLO's political options and will continue their discussions during the weekend.

George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah are taking part in the meetings representing the PFLP and the DFLP. The Palestinian Communist Party representative Sulayman al-Najjab is also taking part.

Abu Iyad said: The discussions are taking place in a positive atmosphere. Observers, however, believe that the three organizations, out of ideology, showed it seems, opposition to the plan of forming a provisional government and declaring an independent state on the basis of UN Resolution 181 issued in November 1947, which calls for dividing Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state.

Abu Iyad clarified that meetings will be held in Tripoli between the PLO leaders and the leaders of Palestinian organizations supportive of Syria in accordance with proposals by the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

'Arafat: Summit-Approved Aid Not Yet Received

NC2708074688 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] While inspecting the Palestinian revolution fighters in Aden yesterday, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] disclosed that the PLO has so far not received a single penny from the Arab brothers as part of the monthly aid approved at the Algiers summit last June in support of the sweeping Palestinian uprising in the occupied land.

While expressing regret for this procrastination and delay, Brother Abu 'Ammar urged the Arab states to honor their commitments toward the PLO in accordance with the resolutions of the Algiers summit.

Algeria

Lebanon's Fadlallah Arrives for Seminar

LD2608134388 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Since we have been reporting on Lebanon, Shaykh Fadlallah, the Lebanese religious figure, arrived in Algiers this morning. He will take part in a seminar on Islamic thought that is to open at the Hotel Aurassi on 30 August.

Chad

President Receives French Military Attaches

AB2708093788 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The military attache of the French Embassy in Chad, Colonel (Sabourol), who is at the end of his tour in our country, today went to bid farewell to the president of the Republic. He was accompanied by the new French military attache, Col Safodonoux. Here is what Col (Sabourol) told our correspondent Erreste after his 1-hour meeting with the head of state.

[Begin recording] [(Sabourol)] We obviously discussed cooperation between Chad and France during the 2 years I was here and the friendly relations we had with people we worked with.

[Erreste] Can you review military cooperation between Chad and France during these 2 years?

[(Sabourol)] You are aware that military cooperation has two aspects. It has a normal aspect, which concerns aid annually provided by France to Chad—this aid is leveling off. During my tour, there was also exceptional aid, provided shortly before and during the reconquest of the north by the Chadian Army. This aid, of course, is not renewable because the circumstances under which it was provided are no longer the same. This aid was very substantial and we hope we contributed to the victory of the Chadian Army, although the Army by itself was victorious in the field.

[Erreste] Speaking of the reconquest of the north by the FANT, what can you say about the FANT soldiers?

[(Sabourol)] Well, we have a lot of admiration for the Chadian Armed Forces and I must say we were pleasantly surprised, because we knew about the large size of the Libyan Army in northern Chad. We feared that our Chadian friends would be badly defeated in the reconquest of the north. The Chadian Army obviously lost many men and much equipment and shed blood for the reconquest of the north, but the losses were markedly low compared to our fears. The success of the Chadian Army was largely due to the fighters and military leadership's ability to adjust to newly supplied modern equipment, such as the Milan missiles, which performed wonderfully during the reconquest.

We also witnessed in the training center in [words indistinct] the speed with which they learned to use these missiles and to use them rationally in the field by maintaining their quality without needing to apply [words indistinct]. So because of the speed of execution and the pugnacity of the fighters, the Libyans were overwhelmed. This must be credited to the [word indistinct] technical and ancestral qualities of the Chadians. [end recording]

Col (Sabourol) was decorated as an officer of the National Order of the Republic by General (Obrigar), on behalf of the president of the Republic. (Odingar Aminaroye) and (Ahmadou Sami) were present at the meeting.

Outgoing Egyptian Envoy Comments on Relations

AB2808211888 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] President Hissein Habre yesterday received in audience the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Egypt in our country. Present at the audience was Minister-Counsellor at the Presidency Ouangmoutching Homsala.

His Excellency 'Aziz Nur al-Din who has ended his tour of duty went to bid farewell to the head of state. After his discussion with the head of state, the Egyptian diplomat spoke to the national press. In that interview, he stressed the strengthening of diplomatic relations between our country and Egypt. Here now is the Egyptian diplomat speaking to reporter Achtab Dramane:

[Begin recording] [Nural-Din in Arabic fading into French translation] In the name of Allah the compassionate and merciful. First of all, President Hissein Habre has honored me by receiving me today. My meeting with President Habre, held in a brotherly and sincere atmosphere, centered on bilateral relations. President Hissein Habre charged me to deliver his greetings to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

At the end of my tour, I wish progress for the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] and to the Chadian people, so Chad will recover its internationally recognized territorial integrity through peaceful means—and President Hissein Habre has always worked toward this under his policy of resolving problems through peaceful means— and can pursue its reconstruction.

During my stay in Chad, I observed that a lot of progress was achieved in all fields: social, economic, and cultural. I have also observed the rallying of (?opposition groups) to the UNIR. I ask the Almighty to open the doors of well-being to President Hissein Habre.

[Dramane] Your Excellency, it is known that diplomatic relations between Chad and Egypt are very good. Can you give us an evaluation of the situation?

[Nur al-Din] In fact, our relations are age-old. There are friendly relations between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hissein Habre and this is manifested by an almost constant exchange of visits between the two peoples on one hand and UNIR and the National Democratic Party on the other. I hope these relations will be further strengthened, yielding progress and success, especially after the visit by [Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister] Gourra Lassou to Cairo. [end recording]

Cameroonian Delegation Visits Moundou

AB2708094888 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A Cameroonian delegation led by the prefect of the Mayo-Rey Region arrived this morning at Moundou for a courtesy and contact visit. This visit is in line with good relations between our border prefectures and that Cameroonian region, as well as between Cameroon and Chad. From Moundou, our correspondent Kanyanga Ngalie reports:

[Begin recording] The 25-member Cameroonian delegation, led by the prefect of the Mayo-Rey region, Dr Tago, arrived in Moundou very early this morning from (Toumere). This is the first time for such a delegation to visit the area. The visit will enable the Chadian and Cameroonian delegations to reaffirm their policy of good neighborliness and friendship between the neighboring Cameroonian and Chadian prefectures. [passage omitted] [end recording].

Briefs

French Financial Assistance

France has just granted our country Fr 60 million in budgetary assistance to enable Chad to meet its priority expenditures and to reduce its arrears. This was stated in a communique issued today in Paris by the French Ministry of Cooperation and Development. The agreement was signed yesterday by French Cooperation and Development Minister Jacques Pelletier and Chadian Finance and Computerization Minister Ngarnayal Mbailemdana. [Excerpt] [*AB2708105288 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 26 Aug 88*]

Egypt

Minister on Security Council Statement on Israel

NC2808183588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1818 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, emphasized today that Egypt believes the Security Council acted positively toward the Israeli occupation authorities' continuing acts of repression and expulsion against sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

In his comments on the statement issued in the name of the Security Council's members yesterday, 'Abd al-Majid said: It is high time Israel stopped these practices, responded to this call by the world community, and acted toward the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of the peace which all the people of the region cherish.

Paper Seized for 'Anti-Government' Editorial

NC2808132188 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 28 (AFP)—Egyptian authorities seized the Sunday edition of the weekly opposition SAWT AL-SHA'B paper to prevent distribution of an anti-government editorial, sources at the paper said.

The commentary by the editor-in-chief, 'Abd al-'Azim Manaf, was a "powerful response to accusations against the paper by President Husni Mubarak," the sources said.

Last Tuesday, Mr Mubarak accused the paper—which supports policies advocated by the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir—of "seriously undermining Egypt's interests by indiscriminantly attacking its friends."

The president also referred to a recent editorial in which the publication attacked Saudi Arabia's foreign policy. The editorial board has filed a demand for summary court action to contest the paper's seizure.

Assassination Attempt Against Saudi Man Denied

NC2808051488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—A responsible Interior Ministry source has denied a report carried by an Arab news agency today to the effect that Egyptian security authorities are continuing intensified investigation into the attempted assassination of a rich Saudi national. The attempt occurred in front of Cairo's Airport Hotel recently. The source described this report as completely false and groundless.

The Arab news agency had said that wealthy Saudi Jabir 'Abdallah had returned to the hotel after midnight 2 days ago. The report added that after he got out of his Mercedes and entered the airport, the automobile exploded, becoming a mass of flames.

7 Injured in Bomb Attack Outside Cairo Church

NC2908103288 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (AFP)—A lone assailant on Sunday hurled a bomb at a wedding party coming out of a church in northwest Cairo, injuring seven people, police said here Monday, while others sources put the toll at 14.

Police said two children were among those hurt in the attack outside a church in the Rawd al-Faraj Quarter. They said the bomb was made of explosive powder, tar and nails.

Mubarak, Djibouti President Discuss Gulf Events

EA2608223188 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Al-Hajj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, president of the Republic of Djibouti, held talks in Alexandria today with Husni Mubarak, president of the Republic of Egypt. The talks between the two leaders centered on bilateral relations and cooperation, other issues affecting Africa, the Muslim world, and especially the latest events in the Gulf.

Malian Agriculture Minister Arrives With Letter

NC2708061488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Malian Agriculture Minister Moulaye Mohamed Haidara arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the Malian minister disclosed that he is carrying a letter from Malian President Moussa Traore, in his capacity as current OAU chairman, for President Husni Mubarak. He revealed that the message deals with African problems and ways to resolve them, as well as with Egyptian-Malian relations.

The Malian minister said that he will hold talks with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, tomorrow on ways to strengthen bilateral relations between Egypt and the Republic of Mali.

The Malian agriculture minister was received at the airport by Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Delivers Letter to Mubarak

NC2808085788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0831 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Alexandria, 28 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Malian Agriculture Minister Moulaye Mohamed Haidara this morning. Present at the meeting were Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and the Malian charge d'affaires in Cairo.

After the meeting, Haidara disclosed that he had handed President Mubarak a message from Malian President Moussa Traore, currently serving as OAU chairman. The message, he added, deals with bilateral ties and African issues.

The agriculture minister said that he had discussed Egyptian-Malian relations with President Mubarak, noting that they are excellent and that cooperation between the two countries is dynamic and strong.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives 27 Aug

NC2708122988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Egypt, during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on topics on the agenda of the nonaligned foreign ministers' meeting, scheduled in Cyprus for 5 September.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2808112288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 28 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas this morning. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Indonesian ambassador in Cairo; and the head of the Middle East Department at the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Following the 30-minute session, the Indonesian foreign minister disclosed that he had handed President Mubarak a written personal message from Indonesian President Suharto.

The Indonesian minister said that the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to exchange points of view with the Egyptians and coordinate efforts in the coming stage. Another aim of the visit, he added, is to prepare for the nonaligned foreign ministers' meeting, to be held in Nicosia on 5 September, as well as to reach agreement on the selection of a new president of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Indonesian minister expressed gratitude for the support Egypt and President Mubarak are giving to his country within the Nonaligned Movement. He also praised President Mubarak's support for the proposal to hold next year's nonaligned meeting in Indonesia.

Alatas also revealed that he will be exchanging views with Dr 'Abd al-Majid on the role of the Nonaligned Movement in economic and political developments taking place worldwide. [passage omitted]

On Upcoming Nonaligned Talks

NC2808145988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Alexandria, 28 Aug (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and Indonesia opened at the Cabinet building here today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy

prime minister and foreign minister, led Egypt's delegation to the talks, while the Indonesian side was led by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

In a statement following the 135-minute session, the Indonesian minister said views had been exchanged on the upcoming nonaligned foreign ministers' meeting—of particular importance since it will prepare for the coming nonaligned summit. This meeting, he added, will come in the wake of great and fast changes and new trends worldwide. He noted that the meeting will assess these changes and their positive impact on peace, the economy, and the dialogue between the North and South.

The Indonesian foreign minister added that the forthcoming Nonaligned meeting in Cyprus will decide which country will host the coming summit and thus lead the Nonaligned Movement in the coming 3 years, which will require wise leadership.

He added: I believe the Cyprus meeting will give us a good chance to see how we can strengthen the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the coming stage. The Indonesian foreign minister expressed happiness and appreciation for President Mubarak's position in support of Indonesia, nominating it to host the coming Nonaligned Summit.

Jordanian Energy Minister To Discuss Cooperation
NC2808052288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Jordanian Energy Minister Dr Hisham al-Khatib and his delegation arrived in Cairo tonight on an official 1-week visit to Egypt.

On his arrival, the Jordanian minister said that during the visit he will hold talks on strengthening cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in the field of transporting and distributing new and renewable sources of electricity, such as that generated from solar and wind power. The Jordanian minister added that he and Egyptian Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah will review the final report on a project to link Egyptian and Jordanian electricity grids. Work on the project will begin next year and last 3 years.

The Jordanian and Egyptian energy ministers are expected to pay an inspection visit to the power generating station in Abu Qir and the transformer station in Sammuhah in Alexandria on Wednesday. They also will open the transformer station in Burj al-'Arab, west of Alexandria. The Jordanian minister was met on arrival by Mahir Abazah, an engineer.

Received by Mubarak
NC2808103588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Jordanian Energy Ministr Dr Hisham al-Khatib this morning. Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and 'Akif Haykal, Jordanian charge d'affaires in Cairo, attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Al-Khatib said he and the president had discussed a wide range of issues. He added that President Mubarak had given guidelines on Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in the energy field. He said that Egypt and Jordan cooperate in all domains, particularly on linking Jordanian and Egyptian electricity grids, an objective which will be achieved in the next few years.

Paper Urges 'Firmer' U.S. Action on Expulsions
NC2708203588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR expresses the hope that the United States will adopt a firmer stand toward the acts of expulsion that Israeli occupation authorities are carrying out against sons of the Palestinian people living on their land.

In its Sunday edition AL-AKHBAR notes that the United States must not content itself with words of denunciation, because the Israeli practices have gone beyond all limits, and the entire world community has denounced these repressive measures.

The newspaper refers to statements by U.S. official sources who have said that the United States is considering cancelling Israel's preferential status for customs in view of its violation of international labor laws and deprivation of the Palestinians workers of their right to establish unions to protect their interests.

The newspaper says the U.S. sources soon resort to silence and the U.S. officials close their eyes to the Tel Aviv authorities' actions, and the U.S. aid continues to flow to support Israeli repressive measures.

The newspaper adds that these tactics are not new to the United States, which has lost all its credibility, not only in the Arab world but in the world at large. But we hope that Washington will seriously implement the measures it is threatening to take against Israel, the paper concludes.

Libya

'Trial' of President Reagan Begins in Tripoli
LD2808193488 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Anti-Imperialist Court in Central America and the Caribbean began its proceedings this morning at the Grand Hotel in Tripoli to try the President of the American Administration (Reagan) for the aborted American-NATO barbaric aggression in Al-Tayr (April) 1986.

The court, held in coordination with the International Forum Against Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and Fascism, consists of a number of militant and political figures, lawyers, university lecturers and writers from all over the world.

Present at the opening session were delegates and secretaries of liberation movements, peace movements, members of the first European seminar taking place at present in Tripoli, a number of members of the world revolutionary committees, journalists and correspondents of Arab and world news agencies and newspapers and magazines and radio stations.

Also present were the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and a number of families and relatives of the martyrs and people who suffered damage as a result of the American-NATO barbaric aggression.

The session was opened by the president of the court with an (?address on) the nature of the court, the importance of its meeting at this time, the choice of Great Jamahiriyah as the place for its session. The president, then, introduced the members of the court and the jury and the public prosecutor read out the text of the criminal and civil writ against the American Administration and its President Reagan.

The criminal and civil writ served by the Libyan Arab people against President Ronald Wilson Reagan personally and as the first responsible for the executive administration of the United States requested the criminal and civil trial of the President of the U.S. Administration before the International Court Against Imperialism for the illegal acts he and his administration carried out against the people of Jamahiriyah and its sovereignty in violation of all international norms of morality and in breach of international and humanitarian rules in accordance with the decision of prosecution based on direct armed military aggression, illegal armed intervention, economic aggression, morale and psychological aggression, aggression and impairing the educational and culture system.

The civil action is based on the principles of international responsibility that the party causing damage must pay compensation to the injured party for material and morale losses.

After making clear the grounds of the action to the court against the President of the American administration, the writ requested the respected court the following:

First..Issue an order condemning the the act of aggression carried out by the United States at dawn on 15/4/1986 against the people of Great Jamahiriyah and the house of the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution being organized official state terrorism which constitutes a gross violation of international law.

Second..Condemn President Ronald Wilson Reagan personally and as a President of the United States being the first responsible for the terrorist act and the material and morale damages caused.

Three..Condemn the American Administration for the act of aggression official state terrorism considering that the administration is the instrument of the execution of acts of official terrorism in which civilian and military organs took part in the preparation and planning thus the administration bears the responsibility of the act of aggression. [sentence as received]

Four..Issue a decision condemning all forms of economic blockade, demand the prompt and unconditional release of all funds frozen in American banks and their branches throughout the world as well as all the rights of Jamahiriyah and its property inside the United States.

Five..Jamahiriyah requests the justice of the court to make a decision urging all states to refrain from providing any assistance or facilities for the commission of acts of aggression against Jamahiriyah.

Six..Make a decision demanding the U.S. Administration to refrain from the threat to use force or use force to settle the disputes between the two countries and to refrain from all forms of intervention in the internal affairs of Jamahiriyah.

Seven..Make a decision for the withdrawal of all the fleets of the United States of America in the Mediterranean being a threat to the security and peace of Jamahiriyah and the peoples of the countries overlooking the sea.

Eight..Make a decision asserting the Libyan sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra and condemn all provocative acts carried out off the Gulf of Sidra and consider these acts as organized official terrorism in violation of the historical right over the Gulf of Sidra asserted by the decision of the Council of the Revolution on 10/10/1973.

Nine..Make a decision asserting the right of compensation for the material and morale damages caused by the act of aggression on innocents and the injuries suffered by them physically and mentally and for the losses suffered by the economic, medical, educational institutions as well as public and private building, public services and their effects.

Ten..Make a decision for the right to total compensation for the economic aggression.

Eleven..Jamahiriyah reserves all its legal rights towards the United States before regional and international fora.

Finally, Jamahiriyah requests the deposit of a copy of the decision of the court with the General Assembly of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission, and all legal institutions in the world as well as the regional and international organisations.

However, the court with all its members will go to assess the effects of the aggression this evening at the street of Ben Achour in Tripoli and the house of the leader of the revolution. Also, the court will be shown a film on the horrors of the aborted American-NATO barbaric aggression on the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives King Husayn Letter
LD2808221688 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a letter from King Husayn of Jordan in which he explains his decision to sever judiciary and administrative ties with the West Bank, stressing that this decision has come as a response to a Palestinian desire to see the end of Jordanian institutions in the West Bank. He also stresses that this decision will remove any doubt that Jordan might be an alternative to the PLO. He says that the first move he has taken is the abolition of the Jordanian development plan in the Palestinian occupied territories.

UK-Israeli 'Operations' To Halt Nonaligned Talks
LD2908085088 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0808 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Aug (JANA)—JANA has learned from reliable sources in Cyprus that the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers' conference will not take place in Cyprus as planned because the British bases in Cyprus are preparing to carry out hostile operations in the region, with the close cooperation of the Israelis. These operations will face counterproductive retaliations and the island of Cyprus will become an arena for military operations. Therefore, it will be impossible for the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers to convene.

Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir Receives Palestinian Leaders
LD2808200788 Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], the secretary of the provisional command of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement—Fatah.

People's Bureau Secretary in Panama Given Award
LD2608141388 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] In appreciation for the brave revolutionary stands taken by the brother leader of the revolution and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in supporting and backing liberation movements in the world and peoples fighting for their freedom and dignity, the Panamanian foreign minister yesterday awarded the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Panama the Highest Order of the Republic of Panama, which is one of the highest official medals in Panama.

During the ceremony, which was attended by representatives of General Noriega, commander of the Panamanian Army, the Panamanian foreign minister made a speech in which he praised the brave stands of the brother leader of the revolution who constantly opposes U.S. imperialism, and stands by the Panamanian people at all times.

Sudan

Libyan Envoy Meets Al-Mahdi, Comments on Talks
JN2708161088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1538 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met here today with Jalal al-Dughayli, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's personal envoy who arrived here the day before yesterday.

Al-Dughayli said the talks dealt with bilateral relations, in addition to the current Arab and international situation. He stressed that the two sides held identical views and that the talks also dealt with the Arab union plan proposed by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, indicating that the prime minister expressed the Sudanese political leadership's support for this plan which aims to attain Arab unity.

Al-Mahdi, Garang To Meet Within 2 Days
JN2708144788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] [No dateline as received] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced he will meet with Colonel John Garang within the next 2 days in a European or African capital that will be fixed later after Garang's final agreement on this meeting has arrived.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-ADWA', issued here today, the prime minister expressed his optimism over the results of his meeting with Garang. He said these results will directly reflect on the situation in the country.

Al-Mahdi Comments on Ties With Kenya, Ethiopia

JN2708192888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] [No dateline as received] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi called on the Arab nations to do anything to prevent the collapse of the administrative and services organs inside the occupied Arab territories. He described these as being among the greatest deeds of the Palestinian people who require support and backing for the future.

In an interview with Egyptian radio the day before yesterday, Al-Mahdi commented on Jordan's recent decision to disengage administrative ties with the occupied territories saying: I hope this Jordanian step will not be allowed to lead to estrangement between the two sides. He called on the PNC to work, in their next meeting, toward dealing with the situation wisely so as to prevent any fragmentation or rifts in the Arab body.

On the topic of peace between Iran and Iraq, the prime minister said that Sudan was one of the countries that wagered on peace in the darkest situations. It always called for supporting the peace-loving powers inside the Iranian Republic. He added that the awareness of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples, which resulted from the war, after both sides suffered its woes, will create a stand opposed to war. Coexistence between the two nations will become a necessity from which there is no escape.

The prime minister also discussed Sudan's relations with its neighboring countries and said: Some of them are excellent and others are not so. On Sudan's relations with Kenya, he said that Sudan had previously officially accused Kenya of sheltering and protecting people who carry out hostile activities. Sudan has decided to treat Kenya in the same way if the latter insists on its position. This led to tension in bilateral relations.

However, Kenya recently announced that it will not allow any hostile action on its territory. He said that they were waiting for Kenya to translate words into deeds. He added that the Foreign Ministry was working to reevaluate the position in light of the recent developments.

As for Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, Al-Mahdi said that they are improving continuously. On another level, Al-Mahdi clarified that Sudan seeks to improve Chadian-Libyan relations within the framework of peace. He said that contacts were continuing with the Chadian government to tackle the issue of Faysal al-Shaykh ibn 'Umar who entered Sudan recently through a general agreement or reconciliation.

In his speech to the Egyptian radio, the prime minister condemned the criticisms made by foreign media over the distribution of relief supplies, claiming that the distribution took place on a racial basis. He said: Such practices do not exist in Sudan. I assure you that the Sudanese Government dealt with the crisis resulting from the rains and floods in a very capable and responsible way. On this topic, he referred to the higher ministerial committee for relief.

He also praised the role of the Armed Forces which he said had started to provide the citizens with large amounts of their strategic food supplies when the crisis started. On the other hand, Al-Mahdi affirmed Sudan's adherence to its declared stand on the issue of debts. He said that the international public opinion has become totally convinced of the necessity of dropping the debts and the principle of joint responsibility toward them.

SANU Dismisses Leader, Appoints Replacement

JN2808111688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Aug (SUNA)—The Executive Committee of the Sudanese African National Union, SANU, decided yesterday to dismiss party leader Dr Andreo Wiw and to replace him with Lawrence Wol Wol, who will assume the duties of acting leader until the convocation of the party's national congress. Executive Committee sources said Dr Andreo Wiw was dismissed because he adopted a dictatorial attitude toward party affairs.

Flood Damage Along Nile Continues To Increase

Relief Committee Hears Reports

LD2608222088 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The higher ministerial relief committee continued its daily meetings yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The meeting examined the latest developments throughout the country in the light of the daily reports submitted by the committee members following their field visits. The meeting also reviewed reports submitted by military officials and specialists with a view to making immediate decisions for implementation through the various apparatuses working around the clock.

'No Risk' of Epidemics

JN2708164588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA)— The general health situation in Sudan is under complete control and there is no risk of epidemics, the Higher Salvation Committee says.

In a report released today, the committee said that from this week, preventive work will intensify now that therapeutic work has covered the capital and its environs as well as most of the regions hit by the downpour and floods. From the beginning of the crisis, the Health Ministry prepared an integratged plan to deal with any epidemic. Health centers and medicines have been deployed around the capital.

On the sanitary situation, committee sources said land spraying is already underway. A French team began work in Mayo district in Khartoum, following the arrival of insecticides.

Blue Nile Continues To Rise

JN2708165488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA)—The Blue Nile water level at the Al-Daym station on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border today reached 12.06 meters compared with 11.82 meters yesterday. The Blue Nile water level at Khartoum reached 16.94 meters today compared with 16.93 meters yesterday and 17.02 meters on the same day of 1946 when the Nile reached its highest level.

In a statement today, the Irrigation Ministry said that the drainage of the Al-Rusayris reservoir at the Blue Nile dropped to 525 million cubic meters today compared with 546 million cubic meters yesterday, that the drainage of the Sannar reservoir dropped to 641 million cubic meters today compared with 660 million cubic meters yesterday, and that the drainage of Al-Qirbah reservoir dropped to 302 million cubic meters today compared with 359 million meters yesterday.

The Irrigation Ministry pointed out that if no rise takes place in the water level at the Al-Daym station on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border, then a drop is expected in Khartoum and in northern Khartoum. However, in the Northern Region, the water levels will continue to rise for a period of not less than a week before they begin to drop. This, the ministry said, necessitates continuous surveillance and cautiousness along the Nile from Khartoum to the north.

Villages on Blue Nile Flooded

EA2808193888 Dakar PANA in English 1645 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28th August (SUNA/PANA)—Floods in Sudan have flattened most of the villages located on both banks of the Blue Nile at Jazirah and destroyed vegetables and fruit plantations, the head of the central region relief committee, Mahmud Abbas has said.

He said affected were seven villages at Abu Hugar, eight villages at Al-Suki, two villages in southern Jazirah, some parts of Medani town and more than 70 percent of Nile towns and villages in north and east Jazirah. Central and east Jazirah villages, he said were swept [as received] and became inaccessible.

Abbas said these included 13 villages around Tambul town, 13 villages in Managil and Al-Azazi area and 14 villages around (Al-Aideg) town. Some villages were completely destroyed. He said six sub-committees were set up by the relief committee and charged with managing finance, food, cars and machinery, health, tents and sacks. The sacks are to be used to construct levees.

On Friday Sudan's Social Affairs Minister Ahmad Muhammad announced that his ministry had established 27 camps for drought-affected people. He said also that his ministry set aside three million Sudanese pounds to meet environmental health needs.

Western Sahara

Polisario Representative Comments on UN Talks

'Optimism' Reported

LD2708223088 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpts] As expected, the UN general secretary received the delegations of Morocco and the Polisario separately in Geneva today. This was to discuss the UN peace plan on the Western Sahara conflict before the two sides give their final response on 1 September. A certain optimism emerges from this day's work. Our special correspondent Olivier Dalage who followed the negotiations in Geneva over the last few days on the Iran-Iraq conflict, reports from Geneva:

[Dalaga] [Passage omitted] Mr Perez de Cuellar received in turn the Moroccan representative to the United Nations, Mr Driss Slaoui, and the Polisario official responsible for external relations, Mr Bechir Mustapha. Neither of them chose to give a reply to the peace proposal put forward some 15 days ago by the secretary general, who gave the two sides until 1 September to comment on this plan which provides for a cease-fire and the holding of a referendum in the Western Sahara.

They both confirmed that Mr Perez de Cuellar would receive their replies within the week, in other words, before the deadline. It is noteworthy that Mr Slaoui and Mr Mustapha used virtually the same terms to stress that one had to be optimistic in regard to the Western Sahara, given the climate of optimism which prevails almost everywhere today on the international scene.

[Announcer] Let's listen to the proof of this optimism in the words of Bechir Mustapha, member of the Polisario Executive Committee, when he was questioned by Olivier Dalage and Mireille Lemaresquier:

[Begin recording] [Mustapha] There is a very encouraging international climate. There is a Maghrebian process [words indistinct] despite certain interpretations, certain ways of perceiving matters. In spite of that, this process is also encouraging in our view since the reconciliation of the other Maghreb brothers—particularly Libya and Tunisia. In our view, all that remains to be achieved is reconciliation between the SDAR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic] and Morocco.

[Lemaresquier] Do you think the Algerian position has undergone any change?

[Mustapha] The Algerian position could not be clearer. Algeria backs the SADR all the way in its legitimate struggle for independence and preservation of its territorial integrity. At the same time it spares no effort to improve the regional atmosphere, to promote general reconciliation, and to lead Morocco to pursue other ambitions in the process of Maghrebian integration. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Obstacles to Peace Viewed

LD2808103888 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Western Sahara issue is coming to the fore of African events. The former Spanish colony cannot escape the climate of international detente. The UN secretary general has been acting as an orchestral conductor of the atmosphere of detente and he had separate talks yesterday with representatives of Morocco and of the Polisario Front in Geneva. [passage omitted]

The two delegations are to see the UN secretary general again next Tuesday to give an answser to his proposal. However, what is certain is that the prevailing atmosphere is one of optimism. Listen to a statement made by Bechir Mustapha Sayyed, the Polisario Front official in charge of external relations, recorded by Mireille Lemaresquier. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mireille Lemaresquier then asked Bechir Mustapha Sayyed what was, at least according to him, the main obstacle to a referendum. Here is his answer:

[Begin Sayyed recording] I think that among the UN secretary general's proposals, the only thing that was solved was more or less that of the census and of the identification of the voters. Morocco cannot fail to agree with it because it was virtually Morocco's demands which were more or less satisfied. For us, to bury once and for all this assertion that the census is the stumbling bloc, we have accepted the United Nations proposal on this very precise chapter of census and identification. And this was precisely in order to stress the true obstacles—that is, the Moroccan administration and the presence of Moroccan armed forces. [end recording]

Representative in Spain Comments on UN Proposal

LD2708202988 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1130 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The Western Sahara is one of the points of conflict on the African continent. The Polisario front and the Moroccan Army have been fighting for 12 years. While UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is discussing the peace plan at the United Nations, in Malaga the Polisario Front has made some statements to Radio Madrid.

One of the representatives of the Polisario Front in Spain, (Abdallah Embadid), confirmed to Madrid radio this morning that the peace proposal for the Western Sahara presented by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is considering the Saharan demand in the referendum on self-determination and the question to be asked will be whether or not the independence of the SDAR is wanted.

However, he described the Perez de Cuellar proposal as weak because it does not take up the resolution accepted by the OAU on the need for the Moroccan administration and Army to leave Saharan territory before the referendum and on the demand for direct talks to be held between Morocco and the Polisario Front. Despite this, direct contacts have been held between the two sides, according to what (Abdallah Embadid):

[Begin (Embadid) recording] There have been talks in Saudi Arabia. And this is not the first time—they have been held in many places. But this is the way, and it is also a step forward to the solution. [end recording]

The Polisario Front representative said the Spanish Government has moral responsibility for this war which has been going on now for 12 years and that the Spanish Administration is on Morocco's side—helping it to build walls and lending it money for arms.

[Begin (Embadid) recording] The Spanish Government is still doing nothing, absolutely nothing, to help the Saharan people. With this I say it all. [end recording]

Kuwait

Contract Signed With U.S. for 40 F-18 Fighters

LD2708093888 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0828 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwait and the United States signed a contract here today for the purchase of 40 F-18 fighter aircraft and their accessories.

A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry said that the contract was signed for Kuwait by Defense Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Amhad al-Sabah, and for the United States by U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell, and by a representative of the aircraft manufacturer.

The signing ceremony was attended by Major General Mazyad al-Sani', the Kuwaiti Army chief of general staff; Faysal 'Ali al-Dawud, undersecretary at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry; senior officials of the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry; and by a representative of the Kuwiati Finance Ministry.

The statement noted that the contract was signed "as a result of fruitful efforts made by His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, during his last visit to the United States, and also on the basis of Kuwait's policy of diversifying the origin of its arms, as it acquires the most sophisticated weapons for all the classes of its Armed Forces."

The statement adds that the F-18 fighter is equipped with several types of missiles, such as the "Maverick" anti-tank and anti-ship missile.

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives in Kingdom

LD2808140888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1437 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan has arrived in the Kingdom. [passage omitted].

Meets With King Fahd

LD2808214788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2125 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Jeddah, 28 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom, met this evening at the Royal Court at al-Salam Palace.

The meeting was attended from the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, acting amir of holy Mecca region; His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, and Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Fahd al-'Isa.

The meeting was attended from the Jordanian side by Jordanian Prime Minister, Zayd al-Rifa'i and Chief of the Jordanian Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim.

Concludes Visit

LD2908112988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Aug (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Jeddah at 1300 today on his way back home at the end of his visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, saw his majesty off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport. [passage omitted]

Source Denies Planning Postwar Aid to Iran

LD2708152688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Riyadh 27 Aug (SPA)—Speaking to SPA, a responsible source has denied a REUTER report of Friday, 26 August, that quoted what it called Middle East analysts as saying that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and another Gulf state are considering helping Iran revive its post-war economy.

The source adds: Those who REUTER calls analysts have based their report on a bulletin issued by the New York based "Middle East Report" and we completely deny the latter's report.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Reads Government Policy Statement

JN2508163688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 25 Aug 88

["Government Policy Statement" read by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani at an "extraordinary" Consultative Council session held in Sanaa on 25 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's peace and blessings be on God's prophet. God be praised. God said: And consult them in affairs of the moment. Then when thou hast taken a decision, put thy trust in God. [Koranic verses]

His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council Speaker and member of the standing committee of the General People's Congress; brother members, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. I send you greetings of the revolution and the Republic, greetings of consultation, democracy, and freedom. It is fitting to begin this government policy statement to your esteemed council by congratulating you on behalf of my

cabinet and myself on the trust which our people gave you and on the trust of the country's wise leadership. I congratulate you on your election as people's representatives to assume the duties of the legislative authority in the state.

I also would like to voice my gratitude and appreciation for the great son of Yemen, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, who prepared a free, democratic climate for conducting free, honest elections, and who has never spared any effort to realize these great democratic aims. I also congratulate the president and members of the higher election commission for preparing and conducting successful elections. I thank all the members of the election committees and subcommittees and all those who contributed to the election process.

I greet and congratulate our heroic Yemeni people who demonstrated their historical mettle by their involvement in the election process in a manner expressing maturity and a sound sense of responsibility, beginning with the preparations and ending with the final processes. The elections were conducted in an honest and free manner, expressing the greatness, aims, and values of the people.

Our people's participation in this process enjoyed the admiration of all observers who praised its fairness and freedom. This democratic behavior of our people is a true indication of the deepness and originality of the democratic concepts that are imbedded in our people and have characterized them since ancient times.

Mr Speaker, brother members, the establishment of your esteemed council is one of the gains of the just republican system at this important phase of the development of our blessed revolution. It is a gain especially for those connected with the political and democratic fields as well as with development fields. The president leader is concerned with strengthening the constitutional role of the legislative authority so that all the constitutional authorities cooperate to promote the nation's gains and achievements.

Therefore, Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and general secretary of the General People's Congress, tendered his resignation to your esteemed council during its first session. This was meant to allow all the people to express their sincere trust in their honest leader, the pioneer of their march, and the defender of their revolution. The people had to reiterate their absolute trust in him and in his wise leadership. Since assuming his responsibilities in 1978, the country has realized the greatest national achievements and gains in various fields in an atmosphere of stability, safety, and security. [passage omitted]

Brothers Council Speaker and members, we are submitting to you the general outlines of the government action plan featuring key development projects that the government seeks to accomplish as it pursues its executive and administrative responsibilities. These responsibilities proceed from the goals of the third 5-year development plan and are guided by the instructions of the brother leader, secretary general of the General People's Congress, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. This will translate both the short and long-term goals of the government in a sustained process bound by the overall strategy as well as the executive programs of the economic, social, and financial aims in the context of the key objectives of the development plan.

Our action will be characterized by the flexibility needed in any reexamination of our projects as called for by the scientific approach in assessing them. We will evaluate projects and make feasibility studies on scientific bases. We will submit these projects for your perusal in detail annually to coincide with the state budget. Thus we can discuss the government's program of action in various sectors as follows:

The economic situation: The overall development strategy during the third 5-year plan draws from the long-term objectives of the national economy and a priority scheme based on their relative urgency to the community's welfare and contributions to security, stability, and freedom. Hence the importance of popular participation in evaluating the successive stages of the plan in a democratic tradition on the widest possible base. The attention given to the general strategy of the third plan and to the economic and social sides of development is coupled by attention to the spiritual and cultural lives of the citizens and protection of the lofty values of the people's Islamic faith and civilized morals. This is meant to enhance the role of educational and cultural institutions in building a citizen who is well aware of his duties and obligations, using modern knowhow and the tools of modern age and technology. [passage omitted]

To implement the economic development strategy adopted by the government to increase agricultural and industrial production, mine oil and mineral wealth, as well as upgrade related services and diversify and expand this production, the government will do the following:

—Mobilize all resources to meet growth rates of the third plan at an annual average of 8.1 percent as recommended by the General People's Congress in its third meeting in August 1986. It is a high target that our country has not aimed at in the past. However, thanks to God, our resources are such that it will be possible to achieve, especially the production of natural gas and associated gas and petroleum, and the vertical and horizontal agricultural production in the next few years.

—Maximize existing industrial resources, services sectors, and other utilities as outlined by the third 5-year development plan. Undoubtedly, the private sector has

been playing and will continue to play its role in the agricultural and fishery industries, processing industries, trading and contracting sectors, services, housing, and tourism, and other free enterprises, so as to support activities of the public and mixed sectors. The government will be careful to achieve the objectives of the economic policy of increased and diversified production as well as upgrade it through enhancing productivity, investment, and attaining the maximum balance between expenditure on and revenues from the services sectors.

Investment policies will receive great attention in the coming phase by applying the criteria of economic and financial feasibility in the various sectors of public, mixed, and private as well as cooperative property to back the intrinsic national economic potential and to secure enough capital for self-produced funding of productive ventures in the future. —Rely on easy long-term loans that enjoy grace periods of several years to finance utility and infrastructure projects whenever this proves possible. [passage omitted]

The government might seek long-term loans and mixed loans to fund vital projects of the third 5-year development plan through financial protocols, stressing a continuation of our policy of avoiding dependence on foreign commercial loans. Still, this kind of funding will go to priority projects in the third plan after passing economic, technical, and financial feasibility studies and going through relevant constitutional measures.

The government stresses the need to give top priority to agricultural development among productive sectors and pursue exploring and prospecting for mineral and petroleum wealth, expanding gas investments, and making the most of its revenues to serve development sectors. Next in priority is industrial development—especially in areas with potential for increasing the use of raw material and half-finished and semi-manufactured goods.

To bolster the great success in the area of agriculture and fisheries over the past few years—especially since the brother leader declared 1984 a year of agriculture—and out of faith in the importance of sustaining this success to achieve maximum agricultural development—as the ideal approach to enhance the national economy and make the most of the enormous energies of the brother farmers active in this field, representing a large proportion of the people—the government resolved to move agricultural development up on the list of its priorities in order to gradually achieve self-sufficiency in local production in pursuit of food security.

Toward that end, the government will work to upgrade the skills of Yemeni farmers on a scientific basis and so as to give them access to the up-to-date agricultural methods and optimum exploitation of available agricultural resources and capabilities. The government will work to increase agricultural income by raising productivity by increasing acreage, enhancing the efficiency of production requirements, offering necessary marketing services, and securing worthwhile prices for farmers. The government will also work to increase crop production through the extended use of improved seeds of high productivity—especially wheat and cereal seeds.[passage omitted]

The government will build a regional station for agricultural research in the eastern and northwestern areas to cultivate various kinds of cereals, legumes, and vegetables. The government will build a number of dams after relevant feasibility studies are carried out. Ninety other sites will be [words indistinct] after feasibility studies are conducted. New irrigation systems will be introduced to help rationalize water consumption and achieve better rates of agricultural production. The government will also work to educate farmers and coordinate with local councils to conserve soil and protect valleys against erosion. It will also work to improve the efficiency of irrigation canals in light of available studies.

In the field of oil and mineral wealth: The governemnt fully realizes its responsibility for the ownership, exploration and digging, promotion, and exploitation of the sources of natural wealth according to the exigencies of public interest. In its statement, the government stresses continuation of efforts to explore and extract this wealth, using the most sophisticated scientific methods reached in this age. The government will consider the clear objective of enabling people to possess their natural resources and find sufficient and constant resources to guarantee the welfare of the society and the happiness of the people in our country.

For the sake of this, the government will continue operations of digging and exploration and development of the domestic production of oil, natural gas, raw minerals and non-mineral raw materials. The government will also exploit these resources to promote exports and expand the production base of domestic industries that use these resources. The government will also work to channel the revenues of oil exports into the investments of resources development, the agricultural and industrial sectors, the completion of basic structures of the necessary services, the promotion of technical and vocational skills—the pillars of production promotion, industrial progress, and technical advance—modernization of the oil sector, and achievement of self-reliance.

The government will establish an administrative and technical apparatus to carry out the tasks and responsibilities concerning the development of this field in order to lay down the pillars of the oil and mineral industry. This includes supevision of companies in the fields of exploration, digging, and extraction. The government will create a national qualified cadre to deal with the oil and mineral industry and move gradually to the stage of exploration, modernization, and various [word indistinct] in areas not covered, or abandoned, by foreign companies. We will seek the help of nations that are ahead of us in this field. The government will continue exploration operations

through companies working in the Ma'rib-Al-Jawf basin, the central hill, and Tihamah east and Tihamah west on land and at sea. The government will work to attract attention of specialized companies to new areas still open for exploration and investment.

The government will conduct scientific studies through Yemeni cadres of the unexploited areas with the aid of foreign expertise in conducting research and drawing maps to determine resources, consolidate the government's negotiating ability to reach the best terms with companies willing to obtain franchise areas, and support the technical apparatus to continue evaluation [word indistinct] of the discovered oil fields. This is a sort of control of the companies on the one hand, and to ensure the oil and gas reserves and production capacity of these fields on the other. This also aims at modernizing methods of running public companies in the fields of oil, oil refining, and [words indistinct].

The government will establish and modernize the [word indistinct] capable of conducting petroleum and geological studies and will establish an information bank—supplying it with the most sophisticated equipment and staffing it with qualified cadres. The government will join the Yemeni company for the investment of oil and natural resources with the southern part of Yemen to exploit the natural and mineral wealth in the joint area. Studies concerning the uses of gas and methane for house consumption will be completed. The required installations for this will be established in order to make methane available for houses at appropriate prices. [passage omitted]

In the field of industry: In view of the importance of this sector—considered one of the major pillars of national economy—the government seeks to build and promote the industrial base and create a firm, balanced industrial structure strongly related and integrated with other economic sectors to form a strong basis for continued [words indistinct] to increase and divesify industrial production and expand it—allowing for the establishment of essential industries for the requirements of production, machinery, and equipment. [passage omitted]

In the field of the Armed Forces and the police:

Since it began, the 26 September revolution realized the importance of building the various formations of the Armed Forces. It realized the sublime aim of building a strong national army to protect the country and defend the revolution and its gains. While building the Armed Forces to protect the homeland and its independence and sovereignty is a most important task, the establishment of the police force on a modern, scientific basis is equally important. Therefore, the state and government are continuing efforts to modernize and develop the Armed Forces and police under the patronage of our leader and brother, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

These efforts are based on the aims and principles of the glorious September revolution, the national [word indistinct] system, and the resolutions and recommendations of the third conference of the General People's Congress. Special consideration will be given to the fact that the building of the Armed Forces and the police constitutes a great goal and efforts and endeavors should be exerted to realize this goal. Continuing the development of our Armed Forces and police force and the development of their resources and capabilities will enhance their role and effectiveness in protecting the country—its sovereignty and independence. It will also enhance their role and effectiveness in preserving the gains of the revolution and enabling it to carry out its national tasks.

While highly appreciating the brother leader's efforts in this field, the government affirms commitment to further efforts to build the Armed Forces and police force in a qualitative manner. The government will also promote work to increase the highly qualified military cadres to meet the needs of development and modernization of the Armed Forces under the shadow of our national leadership. The government will concentrate on the following:

1. Strengthening and developing the colleges, institutions, and schools in both the military and security fields in terms of curricula, training, and preparation. It will work to modernize the curricula to meet the needs of development in the Armed Forces and police and enhance the country's defense capabilities.

2. Promoting efforts to utilize the creative resources of the Armed Forces and police in productive development programs and implementing special industrial plans to manufacture war equipment and weapons on the local level.

3. Strengthening the country's security and stability and modernizing the capabilities of the security forces to enable them to shoulder their great responsibilities in maintaining the citizen's security and stability and ensuring continuation of his productive capabilities. The security forces will spread peace in the society and eradicate crime in all its forms. They will help (?promote) trust between the citizens and the state to enhance the feeling that security, stability, and safety is a social requirement and a national issue—and the state and society are equally responsible to promote these feelings.

The government will take interest in the Civil Defense Department to enable it to play its role in defining popular and official duties in confronting natural and other forms of disasters and reduce their effects through public contributions. It will also take care of other security services that the state renders to citizens to simplify the measures [words indistinct] and work in departments to enable citizens to carry out their business.

The government will continue to improve conditions of prisons as rehabilitation centers and [words indistinct] rebuild those which are damaged. The government will implement programs of eradication of illiteracy among the soldiers and police and provide available human and material resources to make the maxiumum use of these programs according to the national tasks of the Armed Forces and the police.

In the field of the unity seeking efforts.

The government embodies the masses' will in all parts of the Yemeni territory—the masses which aspire to see the restoration of a unified state in the two parts of the homeland. Prompted by faith in the extreme importance attached to the re-establishment of this unity through peaceful and democratic means, the government will continue to consider unity as one of the most sacred and urgent causes of our people and one their great national dreams. The government considers that unity would culminate the Yemini homeland's strength and would also make its security and stability impregnable. Unity would also guarantee progress and prosperity.

The continuation of regionalistic policies means that the Yemeni people's strenth would be weakened and the existing destructive crack in the back of the same homeland would continue and remain unhealed. This is the regrettable reality that serves no party other than the enemies of our Yemeni people. Hence, the government stresses the need to intensify constructive and positive unionist action steps. These steps would directly benefit the Yemeni masses and enhance their confidence in the approach of the restoration of the Yemeni territory within the framework of one state governed by the principled bases contained in the Yemeni unity agreements signed by the leaderships of the two states. The two leaderships pledged to honor the letter and spirit of these agreements.

Therefore, we remain eager to guarantee continuation of unity meetings between the officials of the two parts of the homeland. We will also remain eager to preserve unionist gains and accomplishments achieved so far—foremost among which are the Higher Yemeni Council, the Ministerial Committee, and the joint institutions and projects. These gains preserve attempts to explore wider horizons to push them forward, and to develop aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination in various spheres to catch up with the efforts of political leadership—embodying the most splendid image of eagerness to preserve the higher interests of the Yemeni people. This led to several unity agreements between the two parts of the homeland, the last of which was the agreement of 18 Ramadan 1408 Hegira—4 May 1988—on the joint investment by the two parts of the homeland. There is also the agreement on the freedom of movement of the citizens between the two parts of the homeland.

These two agreements are considered some of the most important unionist accomplishments throughout the recent past in the march of unity efforts. There is no doubt that one of the most important events during the forthcoming phase in this regard is submitting the draft consitutiton of the unity state to the Consultative Council and the Supreme People's Council in both parts of the homeland to pave the way for the people's masses to cast their votes on it in a referendum. This confirms that the peaceful and democratic assault by the leaders and peoples is about to achieve its objective—the most important prerequisite for the Yemeni revolutionary march in the two parts of the Yemeni homeland; namely, the materialization of Yemeni unity as a historical ine itability and a predestined fate dictated by the age and confirmed by the law of survival.

In the field of foreign policy:

Our country's foreign policy will continue to adhere to national, pan-Arab, Islamic, and international constants that go in harmony with the objectives of the eternal 26 September revolution and the principles enshrined in the National Charter. These principles were crystallized by past events of the revolution and acquired specific outlines during the past 10 years since Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, brother president of the Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress, took over the leadership of the September march in the country. Since then, YAR foreign policy has acquired specific and comprehensive dimensions in its dealings on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

This has had a great effect on the development and enhancement of the YAR's foreign relations enabling our country to entrench its clear and balanced foreign policy which won international respect, enhanced its standing, and highlighted its regional and international role. This dictates that our country's policy should continue to pursue the same principled and straight line that it has pursued so far—the line from which we will never budge—whether this pertains to our policy on the Arab and Islamic nation and its causes, on international events, or on human issues. Our policy will be as follows:

On the Arab level:

My government will work to enhance and strengthen our country's relations with all fraternal Arab states, considering that our affinity to the Arab nation is one of fate and destiny—one of history, existence, and survival. Out of our commitment to the principles in the National Charter, we will display eagerness to maintain distinguished relations with the brothers in the peninsula and the Arab states.

We will remain eager to maintain relations based on clarity, equitable dealings, mutual respect, good neighborliness, equal consideration for interests, and also on the positive role which the peculiarities of our country, society, and experience qualify us to play—considering

that our country's relations have been characterized by persistent efforts to bring about complete Arab cooperation. We will continue to work to develop and enhance our country' bilateral relations with all fraternal Arab states.

Bilateral cooperation must continue through the councils and committees formed between our country and a number of fraternal Arab states in order to coordinate joint cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, and other levels. We will work toward more coordination with fraternal Arab countries, with which no such councils and committees were formed. We will also try to strengthen joint Arab action through the Arab League in the interest of supreme Arab causes. This calls for supporting the Arab league and strengthening its effective role in contributing to Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

Our country will adhere to the Arab League's Charter, the Collective Arab Defense Pact, and all other Arab accords and agreements. As a member of the Arab family, the YAR will continue its effective presence in all pan-Arab meetings held under the auspices of the Arab League or its organizations and organs. It will make an effective contribution to make these conferences achieve their desired objectives.

Our country's dealing with the pan-Arab issues, and determining our principled stands toward these issues, proceed from one very important fact—that is, Yemen is the first source of Arabism. This fact makes its relationship with the Arab nation a national and fateful one based on the fact that the Arab homeland is a single body and the Arab issue is an indivisible one. From this premise, and because our country has good relations with all Arab countries and the YAR is distant from the policy of axis and subservience which deepened Arab divisions, our country will continue to play a positive role to cleanse Arab atmospheres and achieve Arab unity. Our country's belief in the unity of Arab destiny will make it continue, and persist in, its efforts to find a unified Arab stand, which will enable the Arab nation to confront threats and dangers facing it and achieve supreme pan-Arab interests.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, our country will continue to adhere to its commitments to defend it as the central cause of our Arab nation, the base of joint Arab action, and the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Our country will continue its material and moral support to the Palestinian revolution and will intensify meetings with its leadership. It will also call to mobilize all Arab and Islamic resources and energies to face the Zionist threat to the security and stability of the whole Arab region. Also, the government will continue its foreign political move in order to gain international support for the Palestinian Arab people's cause through diplomatic activity and numerous meetings in international fora, which affirmed that the practical and appropriate framework to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region is the international conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

We reiterate our rejection of all separate and partial solutions that aim to divide, or reorganize, the Palestinian presence in occupied Palestine. We also affirm that any settlement denying the Palestinian people's rights will fail. Peace can only be achieved through a just solution to the Palestine question which ensures that Palestinian people will regain all their national legitimate rights—including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing an independent state on their national soil. We will also continue to support and back the popular Palestinian uprising that erupted in the occupied Arab territories.

Concerning the Gulf situation, the government is happy to express again its relief at the implementation of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and the meeting of the two countries for direct negotiations to establish permanent peace between them and in the entire region. The government realizes that this favorable result represents a victory for the will to establish fraternity, peace, and good-neighborliness among all Arab and Islamic states. This constitutes a great defeat for enemies of Arab and Islamic nations and ends a grave threat against the security of the region, the Arab and Islamic nations, and world peace and security.

Our country will continue to emphasize the need for the UN Security Council and secretary general to persevere in their responsibilities to continue implementation of the spirit and substance of Resolution No 598 to end the current dispute and realize permanent peace between the two fraternal countries and in the entire region.

On the Islamic level, my government will work to strengthen our country's ties with various Islamic states out of its belief in the importance of cooperation among Islamic states both bilaterally and through the ICO—which my government will work to strengthen in order to lay down a strong foundation for Islamic solidarity and unify the Islamic nation's ranks to face overwhelming dangers and challenges facing it. The government would like to voice satisfaction with the steps reached to solve the Afghan issue and the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghan territory. The government stresses the right of the fraternal Afghan people to exercise their right to sovereignty and to choose political and social systems acceptable to them without external pressure or influence.

On the international level—out of our belief in our country's open policy toward all of the world's peoples and states and with the aim of effecting cooperation and implementing the principle of peaceful coexistence among nations for mankind's wealth, existence, and security—my government will continue to adhere to the

UN Charter and the resolutions of specialized international institutions and their affilitated bodies. It will continue to respect principles of international law, adhere to the policy of nonalignment, and support principles of peaceful coexistence among nations. It will support all efforts to preserve international peace and security.

Our country's effective role will continue in the Nonaligned Movement and all international bodies to enhance our country's international status and strengthen our relations with various states. My government is interested in establishing balanced relations with both the Eastern and Western states and in cooperating with them—as well as with the nonaligned states and the Group of 77—in all that might realize the aspirations of the developing countries. These aspirations include establishing a new world economic order, supporting national liberation causes and rights to self-determination, resisting racial segregation and discrimination, calling for peaceful methods in resolving disputes among states, resolving regional disputes to strengthen regional and international security, and reiterating the call for establishing demilitarized zones—including the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea—as zones of peace free of foreign fleets and external presence.

Brother Speaker and members of the Consultative Council, this statement includes the outlines and main features of the executive action to which the government will adhere and which it will carry out. The government's will make concerted efforts and action to serve the people, meet their needs, achieve their aspirations in all fields of production and services, entrench the rules and institutions of law and order, safeguard the state's installations, reinforce the state's central powers, entrench the local administration system, and reinforce the effeciency of the local councils and cooperative development so that they can play their executive and political role in safeguarding security and stability and promoting our people's defensive capabilities and protecting their immortal September revolution. The government will work to entrench democratic practices and establish parliamentary principles on the basis of commitment to the provisions of the permanent Constitution and the principle of the supremacy of the law hand in hand with efforts to achieve cherished successes in realizing Yemeni unity.

The government will continue on the clear path of our country's foreign policy—committed to nonaligned principles and positive neutrality. The goverment believes that our fate is linked to that of Arab and Islamic nations and is contingent on strengthening our relations with all fraternal and friendly states. We are confident that the Consultative Council will cooperate with the government in unifying the people's authority within the state in order to serve national, pan-Arab, Islamic, and international aims. This is because everyone serves the people and everyone's aim is to realize social progress and economic prosperity and keep pace with modern life within the framework of democracy and freedom.

We affirm the basic bonds that tie us in the trench of the sacred national responsibility that makes it incumbent on us to stand against all those who try to divert our revolutionary march or harm the revolution and the republic. We will mobilize all of our forces and resources to face all cultural challenges, believing that the age in which we live requires all of our time to continue work and efforts in all fields. We will not spare any effort or time to redouble the pace of comprehensive development. The government will adhere to its promises, to this statement, and to the guidelines of the leader of our march, President Leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

When we emphasize integration between the government and the Consultative Council, it is because we believe that concerted efforts and entrenching feelings of collective, responsible leadership symbolizes our presence and is the democratic means of realizing [words indistinct] in enhancing our revolutionary presence, strengthening pillars of the democratic states, establishing our just and free [word indistinct] existence and preserving the basic elements of our unified, free, Islamic, and democratic Yemeni society. I hope that this statement will win your acceptance and the government will win your confidence.

I sincerely look forward to receiving your comments, which will help us carry out our responsibilities in serving our dear homeland and promoting its development and cultural march to realize progress and a bright future full of achievements and the realization of the aims of the immortal September revolution—for which the great Yemeni people fought and made sacrifices.

We affirm our pledge to our leader and president that we will continue to shoulder this great responsibility, work in all fields of sacrifice, and exert efforts to fulfill our promises with enthusiasm and faith. We are confident that this statement will be transformed into action programs and achievements, God willing.

In my name and on behalf of the government, I thank all of you. We derive support from God and pray to Him to guide us on the right path and crown our efforts with success. God will see our work. It is a revolutionary march toward the development of the present and the realization of a better future. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Reportage on Negotiations With Iran in Geneva

Talks Resume

JN2608145888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1432 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 26 Aug (INA)—It has been decided to resume the second session [as received] of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations at 1700 today Geneva time, 1900 Baghdad time, instead of 1530 as originally scheduled. This was announced by Francois Giuliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general. He said the change was at the request of one of the two delegations—he did not specify which one.

'Aziz, Velayati Arrive

JN2608162388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 26 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi delegation led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived at the Palace of Nations in Geneva at 1730 Geneva time today, 1930 Baghdad time, to resume negotiations with Iran under UN supervision. The Iranian delegation led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also arrived. The 2-hour morning session began at 1245 today.

Giuliani, UN Head Comment

JN2608181688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Radio correspondent dispatch from Geneva]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Friday's peace talks session, scheduled to begin at 1030, was over half an hour late. The Iraqi delegation led by Tariq 'Aziz was the first to enter the Palace of Nations where he began talks with Perez de Cuellar. Over 1 hour later, the Iraqi delegation left the meeting hall. Tariq 'Aziz responded to journalists' questions with a smile. While Perez de Cuellar was meeting with the Iranian delegation, Francois Giuliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general, held a press conference at 1200 hours. The conference was attended by more than 200 reporters.

Answering a question on the form of talks yesterday, Francois Giuliani said yesterday's talks took place in three languages—Arabic, Persian, and English—and through interpreters. Asked about the nature of today's talks, he said that they took place between the two delegations through UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and his aides. On whether he can describe these as separate talks, Francois Giuliani said: You should not misinterpret things. These are like any other talks and will continue in a normal way. What is happening now is a natural method of negotiations. Perez de Cuellar's official spokesman did not rule out that Iraqi and Iranian sides will meet directly at the end of the consultations. Answering a question on the results of the negotiations, he said: I cannot say now what will be the form of talks later.

Upon arrival at the Palace of Nations at 0930 today, Perez de Cuellar said that the talks are proceeding in a serious way. He expressed hope that the Iraqi and Iranian delegations had received instructions from their governments on yesterday's talks. Perez de Cuellar added: The two sides have a desire to reach a solution to the problem. Answering questions on the expected duration of negotiations, Perez de Cuellar said: The two sides seriously want a solution to their problems. We should be patient, because a problem that started many decades ago cannot be solved in a day. [passage omitted]

Perez de Cuellar on Session

JN2708075888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] At 2345 Baghdad time yesterday, the evening session of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran was concluded. In a statement to journalists after the meeting, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said: The dicussions were long, intensive, and very frank. He noted that things are proceeding slowly. Perez de Cuellar added: I suggested to both sides that Saturday be a day of contemplation because there are many problems. We will meet on Sunday. He said: During our three meetings, a number of points were clarified.

An INA correspondent said that the evening session was held in one hall in the presence of the Iraqi, Iranian, and UN delegations under Secretary Genral Perez de Cuellar.

Saddam Receives Briefing

JN2708094088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0921 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning received Sabir 'Abd al-'Aziz, chief of Military Intelligence and Riyad al-Qaysi, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry—both members of the Iraqi delegation to the ongoing direct talks between Iraq and Iran under UN auspices in Geneva. The two members of the Iraqi delegation reviewed the progress of negotiations. President Saddam Husayn gave instructions to the two members of the Iraqi delegation on direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; and the president's secretary.

INA Reports on Talks

JN2808160788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 28 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi delegation arrived at the Palace de Nations at 1643 Geneva time, 1843 Baghdad local time today, where the fourth direct Iraq-Iran negotiations session is due to begin. The Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived about 50 minutes earlier.

The INA team cited sources at the Palace de Nations in Geneva as saying that Francois Giuliani, UN Secretary General's official spokesman will hold a press conference at 1800 Geneva local time, during which he will announce the time of the fourth Iraq-Iran negotiations session. Giuliani told journalists a short while ago that the official session will not start before 1800 Geneva time today. He added that the UN secretary general and his assistants have been holding extensive talks with the two delegations, each in its room, since they arrived at the Palace de Nations this afternoon. He said, however, that the negotiations are not at an impasse, and are progressing.

Giuliani pointed out that the secretary general has commitments in Lisbon and the Hague next week, but it is possible to cancel these commitments if his presence in Geneva is necessary. He added that even if the secretary general leaves, he will return, and this will not mean that negotiations will stop during his absence.

In answer to a question on the war front between Iraq and Iran, he said that everything is going well and under control.

Answering another question, the official spokesman recalled yesterday's statement by the secretary general. He said that the secretary general does not have any feeling of failure and negotiations are moving normally, although he expressed hope that negotiations would proceed in a better way.

According to a late report by the INA team, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. The INA team reports that several members of the Iraqi delegation attended the meeting during which issues connected with the negotiations were examined.

Iranian 'Kicked Out'

JN2808191188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1804 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 28 Aug (INA)—A member of the Iranian delegation to the direct talks with Iraq was kicked out of the hall where Francois Giuliani, the UN secretary general's official spokesman held a press conference tonight.

The official was ordered by the information officer at the UN European headquarters to leave because only accredited journalists may attend press conferences. Foreign journalists told the INA team that this official, whose name was not disclosed, reports the proceedings of Giuliani's press conferences directly to the Iranian delegation's room.

'Unexpected Difficulties' Seen

LD2908095988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 29 (KUNA)—The talks on implementation of Resolution 598 were facing "unexpected difficulties" United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Sunday night.

Speaking to journalists after a seven-hour session of indirect negotiations with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, the secretary-general commented "We have unexpected difficulties with the first paragraph".

He was referring to point one of the resolution which states "As a first step towards a negotiated settlement, Iran and Iraq must observe an immediate ceasefire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and withdraw all forces to internationally accepted boundaries without delay".

He had proposed a time period for the withdrawal of troops from the front lines, but this was not accepted by both parties, De Cuellar went on. "The important point is that we have not agreed on the withdrawal of troops—this is indispensable", he said.

"We are trying to move forward as soon as possible towards full implementation of the first paragraph of the resolution", he added.

Until these problems are overcome, it will not be possible to start working on other points of the implementation plan, he added, such as point three dealing with repatriation of prisoners of war.

Asked whether Iran had accepted his timeframe for implementation of Resolution 598, he replied "Yes, in some ways that is true. But the Iranians and the Iraqis are not negotiating with me, they are negotatiating with each other".

No ministerial-level meetings had been confirmed for Monday he said, but talks would continue "at a technical level".

Earlier yesterday Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the 1975 treaty between Iran and Iraq "cannot be abrogated by a unilateral announcement by one side".

Speaking after five hours of consultations with the U.N. secretary-general he commented "All border treaties are permanent, unchanged, and decisive".

His remarks came in response to requests from journalists for reaction to the Iraqi statement last night that Baghdad considered it had sovereignty over the entire Shatt al-'Arab.

Sharon Favors Halt of U.S. Economic Aid

TA2908122888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Aug p 3

[Report by Jerusalem economic correspondent]

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon told U.S. senators' aides visiting Israel that Israel should give up U.S. economic aid. He said this was important for Israel's image, since it can manage without the aid. There would thus be no need to constantly feel that Israel owes something in exchange for the aid, Sharon said.

Minister Sharon said Israel cannot give up U.S. military aid, but added that Israel is returning at least one dollar for each dollar received in aid.

The industry and trade minister claimed that a halt to U.S. economic aid would oblige the U.S. Administration to encourage U.S. businessmen to invest in Israel.

Referring to threats in the United States to cancel the trade and customs privileges given to Israel if an investigation currently underway shows that Israel is violating human rights in the territories, Minister Sharon said: "There is a dangerous development of mixing politics and economics. The Americans know that the trade unions in the territories are not exactly innocent organizations, but are also the political arm of the PLO. When Israel's existence is endangered we take all the necessary measures."

The industry and trade minister disclosed that he plans to meet with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering on this issue.

Nimrod Novik Meets USSR's Tarasov in Paris

TA2908110688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Aug p 3

[Report by Paris correspondent Dan Gil'adi and Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Yesterday Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, met in Paris with Vladimir Tarasov, the deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department.

After recalling the issue of the Jews in the USSR, they planned the meeting between Foreign Ministers Peres and Shevardnadze which will take place next month at the UN General Assembly. It appears that the Soviets will not oppose extending the visas of the Israeli consular delegation in the USSR.

According to the USSR, the PLO is facing an historical turning point in its attitude toward Israel and toward a solution of the conflict. The Soviets said they have advised the PLO not to rush into a decision "so as not to make a bad one." The statements by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Sharif herald the new policy, the Soviets believe. The Soviet official promised that "in the near future there will be a much more active Soviet diplomacy in the region."

The Soviet Union believes there is now more room for an accelerated political process despite the elections in Israel and the United States. They said that the conditions are ripe for the convening of an international conference, as the gap between the Soviet and U.S. positions are capable of being bridged. The USSR sees signs of a dangerous new arms race in the Middle East, therefore it is vital that this region be swept up in the current wave of peace arrangements for regional conflicts.

Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, left for New York yesterday to prepare Peres' visit to the UN. Tamir will meet with the USSR and PRC ambassadors at the United Nations to finalize meetings between Peres and the foreign ministers of the two superpowers. Tamir will also have political talks in Washington and go on to Mexico for an official visit. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 29 Aug in a page 1 report by Paris correspondent Gid'on Kouts said the Novik-Tarasov meeting lasted 6 hours.]

Security Council 'Ignores' Security Needs

TA2708043588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The Security Council yesterday called on Israel to stop the deportations from the territories and to return the inhabitants who have already been deported. The Israeli Foreign Ministry expressed dissatisfaction with the Security Council resolution.

The Security Council announcement says that its members are concerned about the deterioration of order in the territories, including Jerusalem. The Security Council is mostly concerned about the closing down of areas, curfews and the increase in the number of injuries and deaths in the territories.

Israel claims that the Security Council resolution ignores Israel's security needs and its responsibility for the security of the inhabitants of the territories.

Meanwhile it has been learned that the director of the Foreign Ministry's North America Division has met with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Israel and handed him a detailed answer regarding the reprimand delivered by Washington on the deportation issue.

Sharon Elaborates on 'Extended' Allon Plan

TA2608142088 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Aug 88 p 3

[Article by Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon]

[Excerpts] Since 1922—within the boundaries of Eretz Yisra'el and over most of its territory—there has existed a Palestinian state. At the present stage in history, the

gravest danger hovering over us is the threat of another Palestinian state being declared in Eretz Yisra'el. The boundaries of this state would initially include—based on the "PLO finally recognizing the UN partition resolution"—Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Implementation of the Allon Plan in the present situation, a development which is still possible, is not counter to the Camp David accords. On the contrary, under this plan autonomy is intended for the densely Palestinian-populated areas within Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. These areas are, for the most part, outside the scope of the extended Allon Plan.

By the same token, there is no room for the claim that carrying out the Allon Plan is contradictory to the Likud's political concepts, or that it constitutes a change in them. There is no need to "immediately" implement our sovereignty over all of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and there is nothing to prevent us from doing so in a gradual manner. Right now, we speak of a minimum that was also accepted by the other Zionist camp. At the same time, we will stand by our position; namely, that this minimum is not enough, and in no way should we be satisfied with it—not even in the narrow defensive aspect.

Commentary on Proposed Likud Autonomy Plan
TA2808152688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Aug 88 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Even in the Likud Something Has Budged"]

[Excerpts] It is election season. All the bells and alarms must be sounded before a politician's statement can be accepted literally. Through the loudspeaker or in newspaper headlines he might say something new, exciting, and dramatic. In a whisper or in fine print, however, he would leave himself an emergency exit. Still, 2 days ago, HADASHOT revealed an essential novelty in the Likud's position. A team of its senior members is already planning the introduction of a unilateral autonomy in the territories. Minister Arens revealed to HADASHOT the main points of his plan to hold elections in the territories, under Israel's supervision, that would establish an authorized leadership with which negotiations will be conducted.

There is an endless number of obstacles here. No Palestinian would ever agree to participate in elections supervised by Israel. Hence, any leadership formed in Judaea and Samaria would be followed by instructions from the PLO. In addition, should 'Arafat order his followers to participate in such elections, he would be the only one to dictate who wins and by how many votes. When Arens speaks of a local leadership, he knows that if he is lucky and the PLO does not veto the elections altogether, the local Palestinian leadership will be headed by Faysal al-Husayni, Mubarak Awad, Hanna Sinyurah, and a large number of real or potential deportees. Nothing will be left of the slogan—not even in the platform of the Likud—that we will never negotiate with the PLO.

As a matter of fact, Israel does not need elections in the West Bank. There is no room for negotiations in a unilateral autonomy. In a unilateral autonomy arrangement Israel decides for itself what it is to give to the Arabs, and that is what will happen. The basic idea is to enable the Israeli Government to determine the limits of the concession and allow the Palestinians to accept it without giving Israel their half-hearted agreement.

Arens and other Likud leaders still feel the strange need to apologize for their first attempt at a concession in the territories. They keep declaring, therefore, that everything is in the spirit of the Camp David accords. Which reminds us of the respective short-lived attempts by Arye Na'or and Moshe 'Amirav to state that their moderate ideas of compromise are in accordance with Jabotinsky's teachings and the Likud's principles. When the party refused to accept their independent lines of thought, one joined the Center Party while the other remained in the world of academia.

What Shamir, Arens, and their friends are talking about cannot be in accordance with the Camp David accords. The axle on which autonomy should be implemented includes Jordan and Egypt. For Arens, these two sovereign countries have disappeared because they "have not been delivering the goods" for the past 10 years. In Camp David no one even considered the possibility of a unilateral concession the size of which Israel's government would decide upon.

Shamir, Arens, and friends are discussing an embryonic initiative. The unilateral autonomy that their colleague Ehud Olmert supported along with Moshe Dayan was far more clear and precise than the one presented now. The main point, however, is that something is budging. Even if Arens and his friends believe that their being open to the idea of autonomy is a good election stunt—one that would die out as soon as the polling stations close—the very fact that it was publicly expressed indicates their voters' apparent need to hear about some sort of political move or compromise. In the eyes of the Likud voters, this is far better than miserable statements that may lead to the conclusion that a government headed by Shamir might remain indifferent even to another 9 years of uprising. [passage omitted]

This, however, is still not enough. It is very little. But there is no reason to be sorry about it.

Abu Sharif Statement Said To Contain Nothing New
TA2808105988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Political sources in Jerusalem say there is nothing new in the latest statement of Bassam Abu Sharif. The sources point out that the Abu

Sharif document also quoted the idea of recognizing Israel's right to exist within the 1967 borders but had been disavowed by other elements in the PLO. Jack Katzenell reports:

The original Abu Sharif document was dropped like a hot potato by Faruq Qaddumi and every other important figure in the PLO, official sources in Jerusalem point out. In the past few weeks, we have heard PLO leaders suggest every solution, from the 1947 partition borders to the so-called secular democratic state, which is a euphemism for the destruction of Israel and the expulsion of most of its Jewish population, one official source said.

The source pointed to the repeated delays in the convening of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, and said this is because the PLO is incapable of reaching a far-reaching political decision in response to the decisions of King Husayn for fear of a new split in the organization. 'Arafat spends so much time and energy trying to hold the PLO together, the source said, that there is little left for political action. The only thing on which the PLO could reach a consensus, the Jerusalem source said, was the armed struggle. It was true that the PLO was now running through a period of intensive political ferment and activism, but this was not the first time, and in the past they had all fizzled out.

Although Jerusalem is watching developments in the PLO with close interest, no change in Israeli policy towards the organization is to be expected, and on this there is no difference of views between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office.

Rabin Proposes Importing 3,000 Foreign Workers

TA2808173288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposed at today's Cabinet meeting that 3,000 foreign construction workers be imported from overseas to break the monopoly of Arab workers from the territories over the Israeli building industry. But Labor Minister Moshe Qatzav did not accept the proposal. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] The minister of labor, the Likud's Moshe Qatzav, said there is unemployment among Jewish workers, and therefore he was prepared to bring in only 500 construction workers from overseas.

Likud's Cabinet Ministers Ari'el Sharon, Moshe Qatzav, and Hayim Corfu accused the defense minister of excessive restraint in his handling of the uprising in the territories and called for additional measures. Minister Yosef Shapira of the National Religious Party asked for details of the talks between the U.S. ambassador, Thomas Pickering, and the prime minister and the defense minister, about Washington's sharp criticism of Israel's expulsion of Palestinians. The Likud's Moshe Arens accused the Foreign Ministry of making the U.S. criticism public by leaking the details of the meeting between Moshe Arad, the Israeli ambassador in Washington, and State Department official John Whitehead. Foreign Minister Peres denied this. It was you who leaked it, he told Arens.

Agreement was reached on an issue over which Labor and the Likud quarreled at last week's Cabinet meeting: the installation of lighting at isolated road junctions where there have been terrorist attacks. It was agreed today that the Electric Company would install such lightings near the Qatif settlements in the Gaza Strip, at Zemah, south of the Sea of Galilee [Lake Tiberias—FBIS], and in the Jordan Valley. As a concession to the Likud, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal would also study the possibility of doing the same at crossroads in Judaea and Samaria. [end recording]

Military Judge Interviewed on Deportations

TA2708085588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Interview with Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, military judge advocate, by military correspondent Karmela Menashe; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Menashe] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has announced the intention to deport 25 Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. The United States has already protested and denounced this. Are the deportations firmly anchored in the law?

[Strassnoff] The deportations, just as all the other administrative and judicial actions currently used against the inhabitants of the territories are indeed anchored in international law and especially in the law which covers the territories. The issue of deportations is not new; there is a policy of deporting on a selective basis those few persons who are found responsible for violations and improper behavior leading to incitement, disturbances, and the uprising in the territories. For example, out of the 25 people slated for deportation, 21 have been detained previously. Some 16 of them have served prison terms; several of them were released in the framework of the deal with Jibril, while others served long prison terms.

Five of them have spent time under administrative detention. Every possible alternative measure has been attempted, but, when those attempts failed, the security forces decided to make use of the harsher measure—the only one left available—issuing deportation orders against these persons. Let me emphasize that the issuance of the orders by the commanders of the various commands is not the end of the matter. All of the 25 candidates for deportation have already appealed to the appropriate command's military board of appeal, asking that their deportation orders be reconsidered. After the boards hand down their decisions, these persons can still

appeal to the High Court of Justice. I am not referring here to the policy—this is not my job—but from the judicial point of view everything is done within the existing law.

[Menashe] Outlawing the popular committees and the shock committees is another way to make it easier to deport inhabitants of the territories.

[Strassnoff] Not necessarily. Outlawing the local committees—as was done in the past in the case of the shabibah [youth movements] and other organizations—is meant to make it easier from the judicial point of view to try the members of these local committees, who are henceforth outlawed. Naturally the activities of their members are also checked in light of all the other measures at our disposal: administrative detentions and deportation.

[Menashe] Where do we draw the line? Tomorrow the defense establishment can demand the prohibition of any body or organization it does not like.

[Strassnoff] This is inaccurate. The defense regulations permit the prohibition of only those bodies or organizations whose actions is subversive, hostile, and against the law. Many bodies the authorities do not like have not been outlawed because they do not violate the written law.

[Menashe] The defense establishment and the IDF have been criticized regarding the issue of the legality of administrative detentions.

[Strassnoff] I want to emphasize that the issue of administrative detentions is anchored in international law. The 78th clause of the Geneva Convention permits administrative detentions without any time limitation. We are imposing restrictions on ourselves by restricting the length of administrative detentions to 6 months, to be extended only if the circumstances justify it. The administrative detainees have judicial redresses; after the administrative detention order has been issued—and for this the local legal adviser must state that there is enough evidence to warrant such an order—every detainee can appeal to a military judge. We have recently changed the procedure.

Formerly there was a board of appeals, headed by a military judge, which recommended to the commander of the command whether the order should be implemented or shortened. Now there is a judge whose ruling is binding. I am glad to say that there have been many appeals to the judges. Two judges are in session daily at the Qezi'ot lockup facility over the appeals. Out of all the appeals approximately, 25 percent have been accepted; that is, the detainees have either been released immediately or their sentences have been commuted in 1 to 3 months.

[Menashe] How many administrative detainees are you referring to?

[Strassnoff] Approximately 2,200 administrative detainees have appealed so far. Some 1,500 cases have been reviewed so far.

[Menashe] How many administrative detainees are there now?

[Strassnoff] At present there are approximately 2,470 people under administrative detention. [passage omitted]

Deportee Allowed To Return

TA2808174788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Khalil Abu Zayyad, who was expelled from Israel 3 years ago, was allowed to return to his family in the Jerusalem village of Al-'Ayzariyah today. The man was originally jailed for 10 years for security offenses, after which he continued with hostile activity. As a result, he found himself expelled from the country 3 years on suspicion that he had been a leading Fatah member. But special arrangements were made, under which the authorities agreed that the expulsion should only be for 3 years, during which time he lived in Jordan and the United States, and today was allowed home to his family in East Jerusalem.

Rabin Criticized at Cabinet on Unrest Policy

TA2808132188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The defense minister and the chief of staff reported to the Cabinet that some of the violent actions in the territories and inside the Green Line are a result of the Palestinians' confusion while they wait for political decisions by the PLO.

Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the police affairs minister reported a certain increase in terrorist actions west of the Green Line. During the meeting, several Likud ministers attacked Minister Rabin's defense policy. There was also an exchange between Shim'on Peres and Prof Moshe Arens on the issue of who leaked the contents of the U.S. reprimand made during a conversation at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. [passage omitted]

Asks Arabs for Negotiators

TA2908085688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today called on the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to choose representatives to sit at the negotiating table with Israel. In an address to the Knesset, Minister Rabin called on the inhabitants of the territories not to be led astray by their leaders as has been the case for 45 years.

He made his remarks in reply to a motion by HADASH [Democratic Front For Peace and Equality] Knesset Member [MK] Tawfiq Tubi on the death of two prisoners at the Qezi'ot lockup on 16 August.

The defense minister said the detention centers will be closed down when quiet is restored in the territories. He said conditions at Qezi'ot are not comfortable, as is the case in all lockups, because of weather conditions in the Negev.

The reasons for the serious riots at Ansar-3 are still not clear, and the military police are investigating a complaint that one of the detainees was shot in the chest. [passage omitted]

Closure of East Jerusalem Offices Explained

TA2808105688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli police raided two East Jerusalem offices today, earlier ordered closed for a year by the head of Army Central Command, Major General 'Amram Mitzna'. The offices were said to have served as a front for terror organizations. Meanwhile, the military advisory committees in the territories were scheduled to hear appeals today from the 25 Palestinians served with deportation orders, but the lawyers did not appear, and the hearing was canceled. Steve Rodan has more:

[Begin recording] Police arrived at about 0900 this morning to the offices of the Federation of West Bank Charitable Organizations in East Jerusalem. The officers carried a military order signed by the head of Army Central Command, Maj Gen 'Amram Mitzna', closing the offices for 1 year. Authorities say the charity was used to bring PLO funds into the territories to finance the Palestinian uprising. Specifically, the money was funneled to Fatah agents in Judaea and Samaria. All of the funds were reported as charitable contributions. Last month the head of the federation, Dr Amin al-Khatib, was arrested and placed in administrative detention.

Al-Khatib was regarded as a pro-Jordanian figure, with strong ties to PLO supporters. Later this morning, police raided the offices of Al-Hayah, a relatively obscure Arabic publication in East Jerusalem. Authorities say the newspaper represented the Popular Front in the territories, and in this alleged capacity the newspaper published the ideas and activities of supporters of the Popular Front. The front is said to be especially active in the Ramallah and Bethlehem area.

Meanwhile, proceedings were scheduled to begin this morning on the appeals of 25 Palestinians ordered deported for their alleged role in the uprising. The appeals are being heard by the military advisory committees presiding in Nabulus and Gaza, but Nabulus is under curfew today, and the Army says it would allow the attorneys for the appellants to enter the city and appear before the committee. Still, some of the lawyers of the deportation candidates said they would not enter Nabulus with a military escort. They requested that the appeals committee postpone the hearings until the curfew is lifted. In the end the lawyers did not show up, and later they said that the military committees postponed the hearings until Wednesday. There is as yet no confirmation from the Army as to the postponement. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Schools To Remain Closed 1 Sep

TA2608174688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Arab schools in Judaea and Samaria will not reopen as usual on 1 September. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that a decision on the matter was made at the Civil Administration at Bet El because the schools are used as centers for incitement and disturbances in their immediate areas. The decision involves 1,200 schools in which 300,000 youngsters study. Studies at Arab schools in Judaea and Samaria were suspended for different periods for over half of the previous school year. The Civil Administration is nevertheless permitting the reopening of 250 private kindergartens.

Al-Burayj Youth Shot in Leg

TA2708162588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] A youth was wounded in the leg by IDF fire in the Al-Burayj refugee camp at noon while a riot was being dispersed. There were also disturbances in the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah and in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. The security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Nusayrat camp.

8 Wounded in Al-Nusayrat Camp

TA2808063688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Eight residents of the Gaza Strip Al-Nusayrat refugee camp were wounded by IDF fire last night. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a group of soldiers, which had been summoned to restore order, was attacked by a large crowd throwing rocks and wielding iron clubs. The soldiers first fired rubber bullets but later shot at the rioters' legs. [sentence as heard]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 August in a page one report by Joel Greenberg on the 27 August disturbances adds: "A 15-year-old youth and an 18-year-old were both shot in the Al-Burayj refugee camp, the sources said, adding that troops arrested scores of demonstrators after the clashes. Unidentified assailants earlier hurled petrol bombs at Israeli military vehicles in the Al-Shati' camp.

In the West Bank, two youths, aged 12 and 15, were wounded by army gunfire during a protest at the northern camp of Janin, while three others were wounded in the village of 'Illar near Tulkarm."]

Civilian Wounds 2 in Qalqilyah

TA2808161388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Two inhabitants of Qalqilyah were wounded by shots fired by an Israeli civilian who was stoned in the town. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the police are investigating the circumstances of the incident.

More on 28 Aug Incidents

TA2808174288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] In the territories today two Arabs were injured, apparently by an Israeli motorist when his car was struck by stones in Qalqilyah. Meanwhile, authorities say the murder of a Hebron area Arab is a purely criminal matter and does not have any connection to the Civil Administration. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] The latest shooting today did not come from the army. Early this afternoon, an Israeli civilian driving his car through Qalqilyah came under a hail of stones that smashed his windshields. The driver stopped his and fired his weapon. Later military sources said two Arabs were found shot. The sources say the injuries apparently came from the bullets fired by the Israeli civilian. The case is now being handled by local police.

Farther north, in the refugee camp of Nur al-Shams near Tulkarm, Arabs clashed with soldiers. Nobody was reported hurt, but soldiers imposed a curfew and carried out dozens of arrests. Meanwhile, authorities continue to investigate the killing of a Yattah man found tied to an electricity pole this morning, beaten to death. Police, however, say the killing is a criminal manner and has little to do with the rash of attacks against suspected Arab collaborators with Israel. Investigators say Samih Dababsi, aged 30, was accused of kidnapping a local Arab girl nearly a year ago, intending to marry her. The girl's family threatened then to kill the would-be suitor. Authorities say Dababsi was not an employee of the Civil Administration and had no direct connection to Israeli authorities.

Speaking of the Civil Administration, officials there had decided on a new regulation pertaining to Arabs in Judaea and Samaria. Starting 1 September, a document would be attached to the identity cards of Arabs in Judaea and Samaria, and every time a resident needs help from the Civil Administration, he must insure that his certificate is stamped, showing he has paid all his taxes and official fees.

In Nabulus, the military advisory committee postponed hearing the appeals of 15 Palestinians ordered deported by the army. Attorneys for the Palestinians refused to enter Nabulus as long as it remains under curfew. The hearing was rescheduled for Wednesday. [end recording]

Nabulus Resident Wounded

TA2908102388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem reported that a wounded Nabulus inhabitant was brought to the hospital. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a firebomb was thrown this morning at a vehicle belonging to an Arab from Tarqumiyah in the Hebron area. Nobody was hurt, but the vehicle went up in flames. IDF forces searched the area. The circumstances of the attack are still not clear. The man is not a permanent resident of the village.

Territories Elections Not 'Simple Matter'

TA2608183888 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Interview in Hebrew with Minister Moshe Arens by unnamed correspondent; date and place not given—recorded with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Would you agree to hold free elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and recognize those elected as partners for negotiations?

[Arens] It was agreed in the Camp David accords that elections would take place, and that they would be used to elect the self-governing body and the autonomous institutions. The holding of elections in Judaea and Samaria is not a simple matter. The State of Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East. We know that in Judaea and Samaria there are terrorist groups and that there is an attempt to frighten people to force the PLO's wishes on them. Zafir al-Masri was murdered by the PLO. I believe he was one of the potential leaders of Nabulus, and perhaps of the Samaria area. So, if we agree to hold elections, we must first and foremost create the conditions for personal security so that the elections will be democratic and free.

[Correspondent] If people who are in fact representatives of the PLO are elected, what then?

[Arens] I hope this will not happen. When we succeed in creating security in the field and people will be able to vote freely, and not according to the PLO's dictate, I do not know what will be the result.

Labor Party Seen as Losing Arab Vote

TA2808112788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Aug 88 p 9

[Analysis by Ilan Shehori: "The Labor Party Is Losing the Arabs"]

[Excerpts] For the first time since the establishment of the State of Israel, there is a possibility that Jewish voters will be the ones who enable the Labor Party's Arab candidates to be elected to the Knesset. As the election date draws nearer, it becomes increasingly clear to the Labor chiefs that in this particular campaign it is liable to lose a significant portion of the Arab sector. The party election campaign heads have received many contradictory reports on the expected Arab support, some indicating a decrease of 50 percent, others claiming that the blow will be even harder.

The reasons for the expected shift are naturally connected with the intifada [uprising] and with the Israeli Arabs' growing sense of solidarity with the Palestinians in the territories. Yet the process also stems from the internal change Israel's Arabs have been undergoing, as well as the fact that this time the Arab vote will be the target of aggressive competition between various Zionist parties and of new Arab parties ,in addition to RAKAH [New Communist LIst] and the Progressive List for Peace, which can also gain strength as a result of the uprising.

In the last Knesset elections, some 47,000 Arabs (24 percent) voted for the Labor Party. The Yahad Movement, which was merged with the Labor, received another 10,000 Arab votes. This Arab support gave the Labor Party three to four seats in the present Knesset, although the party list included only one Arab candidate—'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah. The new Knesset list includes two Arabs in realistic slots: Nayif Masluhi, a member of the Histadrut's Central Committee, who is slated for the 35th slot, and Druze Salah Tarif in the 40th slot.

Another Arab candidate, Nellie Karkabi, was placed in the 46th slot, which is considered to be on the verge of a realistic slot.

A secret meeting was held in Shim'on Peres' office over the possibility that the party may lose the support of thousands of Arab voters in the next election. The estimate was that in the event of a draw between the two blocs, the Arab votes will decide the fate of the next government coalition. The conclusion was that Arab support for either the leftwing or the radical Arab parties is liable to promote the rise of the Likud—a function of the damage to the Labor. At the same meeting, Peres and the election campaign heads began outlining the message to the Arab public. The assessment shared by many, however, was that this time the Labor Party is facing a losing battle.

Three main factors led to the Labor Party's expected failure. The Arab voting public has forgotten Labor's help, extended mainly during the unity government's first 2 years when Minister 'Ezer Weizman was in charge of the Arab sector. The improved standard of living and the solution of problems, such as "Territory 9" [dispute between Arabs and the IDF over territory in the Galilee] or the recognition of Umm al-Fahm as the first Arab town, were forgotten in the wake of the intifada [uprising]. Recent polls show that in many locations the party suffers from a negative image, mainly because of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's activity in the territories.

Another reason is the fact that elements who had helped recruit Arab voters' support have abandoned the Labor Party. MAPAM is currently gathering forces to launch a campaign among the Arab public; its principal goal is an aggressive attack on the Labor Party. In the past few weeks, MAPAM has been running ads in Arab newspapers under the headline—"Do not give your vote to Yitzhaq Rabin's truncheon."

The Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], whose chief operator is Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid, has taken similar action in the Arab sector. Despite its stands, the CRM in previous elections did not enjoy wide support in the Arab sector. This time, however, extensive efforts in this direction are being made, chiefly on the part of Sarid and MK 'Oded Zucker—the fact that an Arab candidate was placed in the remote sixth slot on the CRM Knesset list notwithstanding.

The third factor liable to damage the Labor Party more than any other is 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party, the emergence of which was promoted by the events of the intifada and which is in fact Israel's first and only Arab party. Darawshah has promised Israeli Arabs precisely what they wanted to hear: Their recognition as a national minority and support for a Palestinian state in the territories led by the PLO. It is obvious even now that Darawshah is steering his activities mainly against the Labor Party, so as to draw Arab voters who had previously supported Zionist parties.

The third reason for the Labor Party's expected failure is the contention upheld by broad Labor circles, namely that in recent years the party failed to comprehend the Palestinization of Israeli Arabs. [passage omitted]

Whichever way we look at the problem, various assessments predict that the Arab sector will affect 14 to 15 seats in the next Knesset. Its voting patterns may determine the next government coalition. Both the Likud and the Labor Party are aware of this fact, and both are taking measures—each in its own way—to try and change the new trends in the Israeli Arab sector.

Labor's Arab Voters Surveyed

TA2808101388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] The Labor Party's high echelons fear that the party is liable to lose the support of thousands of Arab electors, who will prefer this time to vote for the leftwing parties, such as the new Arab Democratic Party, led by 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, and for the radical parties, and will thus have no chance to lead the next government.

The Labor Party's election department recently finished compiling a comprehensive survey conducted in the Arab community which indicates that the party is liable to lose some 40 percent of its support in the Arab sector. The survey was supervised by department chairman Ra'anan Kohen, who has been in charge of the party's minorities department for many years. According to the survey, some 54 percent of the Arabs will vote for the HADASH and Progressive List for Peace parties, 6 percent will vote for Al-Darawshah, 19 percent will vote for the Labor Party (as compared with 29.2 in the last elections), while 5.5 percent of the votes will go to the Likud—more than 1 percent increase over the last elections. The same survey indicates that the Citizens Rights Movement may gain 5.5 percent in the Arab sector, versus 1 percent in the last elections, while MAPAM will have 2.5 percent. [passage omitted]

Election Polls Show 'No Significant Differences'

TA2608164888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Aug p 1

[Text] The election polls recently carried out by two major public opinion polling institutes reflect no significant differences 2 and ½ months before the elections.

Both forecasts show a large increase in the number of votes given to Tehiya, Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], and Kakh. In both, the Alignment has just over 40 Knesset seats, while the Likud is on the verge of its 40th seat. While one of the forecasts indicates a slight advantage of the rightwing bloc over the left, the other gives the leftwing bloc a slightly larger advantage over the right.

The following Dahaf forecast was conducted between August 7 and August 14 and encompassed 1,175 adults, interviewed in person, from the Jewish sector only. The Decima forecast was also conducted in the first half of August. It encompassed 1,503 Jewish sector participants who were interviewed by telephone and 1,200 Arab sector participants interviewed in person.

	Dahaf Forecast A slight advantage to the rightwing bloc 59:61	Decima Forecast A slight advantage to the leftwing bloc 57:63
Alignment	42	43
Likud	40	38
CRM	5	8
Tehiya	6	7
MAPAM	3	2
Tzomet	2	1
Center	2	2
National Religious Party	4	4
Agudat Yisra'el	2	1
SHAS	4	2
Memad	-	1
Kakh	3	3
HADASH	-	6
Progressive List For Peace	7	2
	120	120

Editor's Remarks:

Out of a concern for absolute impartiality during the election campaign, YEDI'OT AHARONOT will from time to time publish two election forecasts simultaneously, as now until election day. The forecasts are the product of the Dahaf Institute whose services have been hired by the Likud headquarters, and of Decima, hired by the Alignment headquarters.

In both instances, the forecasts are ordered and financed by YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

King Addresses Royal War College Graduates

JN2708134788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Speech by King Husayn to graduating officers at the Royal War College outside Amman on 27 August, carried within the "Newsreel" program—recorded]

[Text] Brother officers, gentlemen: Greetings. It gives me pleasure to share the joy of your graduation. I congratulate you and the Jordanian Armed Forces for completing the curriculum of the second war class and for meeting the requirements of graduation with resounding success, crowning your strenuous efforts with the new ideas you developed as a result of entering wide horizons of disciplines related to sciences in war and policy. Your success has also been the fruit of efforts by the academy's command and its responsible, enlightened leadership.

The academy has a climate conducive to constructive dialogue that made it possible for you to relate to the books and produce useful initiative and ideas. These in turn will make you an advanced, qualitative addition to your Jordanian Armed Forces. I congratulate you for what you have given and accomplished, and thank the command of the Royal War College and its administration as well as whoever has played a part in making your class a success.

Brother officers, the period in which the second war class was held was unique in the last decade in terms of successive and diverse developments. You began the second war class against the backdrop of certain facts and events. And here you are completing it against the backdrop of new facts and events as a result of these developments. Perhaps, from a general perspective, one of the most outstanding of these developments has been the emergence of a new detente between the two superpowers.

If the intermediate range missile agreement marked one of the openings of this thaw, its positive consequences soon reflected themselves on the role of the United Nations and on various regional conflicts from the Angolan, the Kampuchean, and Afghan problems to the Iraq-Iran war. We in Jordan have welcomed this new international orientation—a watershed furthering humanity and the causes of peace, stability, and development around the world. Proceeding from this understanding, we supported this orientation, and worked to exploit it in the interest the Arab and Muslim worlds.

One of its immediate fruits has been the UN-sponsored agreement to end the Afghan problem—already being implemented. On the front of the Iraq-Iran war, the UN Security Council passed Resolution No 598 providing for a ceasefire between the combatants and a peaceful settlement to end the war and set in motion stability and good neighborliness in the Gulf. This resolution experienced some difficulties when it was passed on account of Iran's refusal to accept it in contrast to Iraq which accepted it. But successive battlefield victories of the valiant Iraqi Army, beginning with the liberation of Al-Faw peninsula, and the ascendancy of forces for peace in Iran, introduced new facts which the Iranian Government decided to approach in a positive spirit by accepting UN Security Council Resolution No 598 at the beginning of this month.

The UN secretary general has managed to take the necessary measures to implement it. The cease-fire has actually gone into effect on 20 August. It was also decided that the peace talks between the two warring states under the auspices of the United Nations at the UN headquarters would begin in Geneva on 25 August. The cease-fire between Iraq and Iran is a triumph of peace. This victory will not be completed or entrenched except by ending the war according to a just and balanced peaceful settlement. We in Jordan blessed this approach and strongly and enthusiastically support it.

We also hope that the peace trend will be entrenched by the Iranian side and they will respond to fraternal Iraq's approach for peace in order to end the bloodshed, safeguard the resources, and serve the Arabs and Muslims. We hope that the road will be wide open for the Iraqi and Iranian peoples for the sake of constructive peaceful coexistence within the framework of understanding, good neighborliness, and noninterference in domestic affairs of both countries and all Gulf states.

Regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict—which still constitutes the oldest regional problem in this world and the most prominent problem in the Middle East—it has recently gained tangible international interest within the framework of the new detente between the two superpowers after it continued to be contained and frozen for over a decade. This change—represented by restoring attention to it—was the result of the blessed popular Palestinian uprising that broke out against the Israeli occupation 20 years after its occurrence. The uprising, the revolution, which coincided with the state of the new detente, has created new developments and situations that are placing the Palestine question on the right course.

The valiant Palestinian uprising—including its daily sacrifices throughout 9 months so far—has proved that the Palestinian Arab people are not different than any other people who fell under colonialism regarding their indisputable right to regain their freedom, independence, and self-determination. Just as other people under colonialism restored their freedom and independence, the Palestinian people have the same right. They are struggling for the sake of this right, especially since they have fallen under the colonialist Israeli occupation during the era of the eradication of colonialism in this world.

The Palestinian people's uprising has projected this flagrant paradox and opened the eyes of the world on the Palestinian people's situation in an unprecedented manner. The world nations began to view the Palestine question with a clearer perspective and sympathize with the Palestinian people in a deeper and stronger manner.

We in Jordan, while in the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict, have not hesitated to monitor facts and changes in the international arena to employ them in the service of Arab and Islamic causes, headed by the Palestine question.

Regarding the international arena, we continued with full perseverance and all energies we possess and all credibility and good relations we have with major states, to bring to fruition the idea of an international Middle East peace conference until the idea of the conference became universally accepted. Moreover, the principle of cooperation between the two superpowers to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict became an accepted truth. Perhaps the most explicit evidence of this is the fact that this problem has been listed on the agenda of the two sperpowers during their regular meetings held within the state of detente between them.

One of the important new developments on the level of the Arab-Israeli conflict was our decision on 31 July to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the occupied West Bank in response to the request of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and in response to the general Arab trend as contained in the Arab summit resolutions. Our decision was a major gateway for the Palestinian cause. It gave the Palestinian people's struggle a tangible qualitative push and turned the aims of their valiant uprising, which we supported right from the beginning, into clear, significant aims agreeing with human rights and UN principles.

Thus, we have directly contributed to emphasizing the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights at a time when these people are continuing their blessed uprising. We also stressed that Jordan is not Palestine and that the situation of the Palestinian territory and the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation fully resembles the situation of nations which suffered from colonialism and deserved freedom and independence through their struggle.

Brother officers, I would like to recall what I said in my speech to the people on 31 July that Jordan, while making this decision, will not stop supporting and helping the Palestinian people until they attain their national aims, God willing. It will likewise not abandon its commitment to participate in the peace process in its capacity as one of the confrontation states whose border with Israel is longer than any other Arab state's border with it. Jordan is a basic party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and in the peace march. Hence, it is shouldering its national and pan-Arab responsibilities on these grounds.

Accordingly, it is we who define and draw up our regional role, thus proceeding from our national interest, pan-Arab commitment, geopolitical considerations, and the principles to which we are committed historically and nationalistically, headed by the principle of establishing a just and comprehensive peace and attaining an advanced practical formula of joint Arab action.

Brother officers, I thank you and repeat my congratulations to you, wishing you success in serving your country and nation. May God's peace and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Hizballah Sets Terms for Release of Hostages

PM2608161188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Aug 88 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Obstacles in the Way of Releasing Beirut Hostages in the Near Future"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The problem of the foreign hostages held in Beirut by the Iranian-backed Hizballah has entered a new phase because the party has set new terms for their release.

According to reports released in the British capital, in view of recent Iranian developments since the acceptance of the cease-fire resolution, as well as the opening of a new chapter in relations between Iran and a number of Western states, Britain among them, there has been a division of views within Hizballah ranks in Lebanon.

Some support Iran's decision to accept the cease-fire resolution and turn over the past page of tense relations with the states, and some reject this, feeling that Iran has gone too far in this maneuver at their expense and has used them as a card to exert pressure and achieve its own objectives.

The reports say that previous Iranian contacts with various international circles, especially with British circles, as well as the promises it made to release the hostages in return for resumption of relations with Iran and help in the reconstruction process at the next stage, have angered some elements, who have gone so far in their slogans as to focus on the implementation of their local Lebanese requirements as a condition for the release of the foreign hostages.

Among the conditions set by that wing, which observers believe is the body holding the foreign hostages, is the release of 250 Lebanese detained in the Al-Khiyam Prison in southern Lebanon, where the so-called South Lebanese Army [SLA], an Israeli agent, is deployed. This is in addition to the release of some Lebanese detained in Arab and foreign states for carrying out terrorist operations. [passage omitted]

Anglican Envoy 'Optimistic' on Hostage Release

NC2808165588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Anglican Church envoy John Brown, the bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, arrived in Beirut today and met with Patriarch Sfayr. The envoy said later: I am optimistic about the possibility of freeing the British hostages. The time is certainly right to free them.

In a contact with REUTER the envoy said: Things are promising. The Iranians are responding very well to the initiative [not further specified]. However, what Father Brown heard in Lebanon British diplomat David Reddaway did not hear in Tehran. Reddaway has said that he could not obtain information about the three British hostages in Lebanon.

Muslim Areas Observe General Strike 26 Aug

LD2608104288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0950 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug 26 (KUNA)—Muslim-dominated areas in Lebanon observed a general strike Friday to protest what the opposition political leaders called U.S. and Israeli intervention in Lebanon's presidential elections.

West Beirut and the southern port cities of Sidon and Tyre came to a near standstill this morning as the call for the general strike was met enthusiastically in those areas, according to sources here and a KUNA telephone report from the South.

The strike was called last Tuesday when leaders of the Muslim opposition parties met in the Carlton Hotel in Beirut to discuss the stalled presidential elections.

The conferees charged then that Israel and the United States were meddling in the country's politics in favor of the outgoing President Amin al-Jumayyil and the right-wing Christian militias.

The leftist and Muslim opposition leaders said the U.S. and Israel have supported the Christian militias' opposition to the candidacy of former pro-Syrian President Sulayman Franjiyah, who though Maronite Christian, is denounced by his co-religionists as "confrontational."

They also warned Al-Jumayyil against forming a caretaker government should the Parliament fail to elect his successor before the end of Al-Jumayyil's term by September 23.

A Parliament session eight days ago failed to muster quorum to elect a president as the Christian Phalangist militias and their local allies blocked several deputies from reaching the Parliament vicinity

A KUNA reporter who drove this morning across West Beirut said streets were almost deserted and there were no signs that the strike was being forced as used to be the case in previous such occasions.

Exempt from the strike were bakeries, drug stores, hospitals and Beirut's airport, he said.

In the meantime, police and Syrian troops in West Beirut patrolled the streets and no acts of violence were reported, a security source said.

The strike was also observed in the central Al-Biqa' Valley and Tripoli—Lebanon's second largest city, the source added.

The sure victim of the political chaos in the country and of the uncertainty overshadowing the presidential elections was the Lebanese lira which slipped dramatically against the U.S. dollar on Thursday.

The American unit Thursday hit the psychological ceiling of 400 liras for the first time in several weeks. There were no exchange rates Friday as the Central Bank closed down for the strike.

Al-Huss Interviewed on Election Crisis

NC2608121288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] In an interview with the Abu Dhabi-based paper AL-ITTIHAD, [Acting] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has affirmed that the presidential elections will take place before 23 September. He ruled out a return to the atmosphere of suicidal violence. He warned against adding fuel to the fire by a rash action such as the formation of a transitional government.

Al-Huss was asked: What is your stand on the possible formation of a transitional government to replace your government?

He answered: I can say that, despite the strange circumstances, the present government has been able to maintain a delicate balance among the parties to the political battle in Lebanon. Any attempt that might be contemplated to replace this government by a so-called fait accompli or transitional government will destroy this balance. There is no reason to form a transitional government under any circumstances. The Constitution does not make provision for the formation of such a government and the public interest does not demand such a step now. Political realities do not permit this. On the contrary, in the current delicate stage it is clear that the present government must remain until a way out of the existing impasse is found and solutions attained. We hope that this will be done soon.

Al-Huss was then asked: What will be the fate of the boycott of the regime if this government continues in office?

He answered: There is no estrangement among the members of the government. The estrangement is between some government members and the president of the Republic. The boycott was not a governmental but a political one. In other words, it included some figures and leaders outside the government framework.

Asked if security conditions are likely to deteriorate again, Al-Huss said: We rule out any such possibility. Indeed, we insist on discounting it. There is no one in Lebanon who wants a return to the atmosphere of suicidal violence. The long years of crisis have given thousands of proofs that all violent methods are useless and sterile. We have no option other than dialogue and understanding.

Raymond Iddih Announces Candidacy for President

LD2608134288 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The Christian Maronite leader, Raymond Iddih, who has been living in exile in Paris since 1976, has announced his candidacy for the presidential election in Lebanon. Raymond Iddih makes it clear that he will be a candidate in any case, even against the former President Sulayman Franjiyah, or the commander-in-chief of the Army, General Michel 'Awn.

To Pursue Withdrawals

NC2708063988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] During a telephone contact with Raymond Iddih at his residence in Paris last night, he delineated the steps which he might embark upon should he be elected president. Iddih reiterated that conditions he has put forward represent the stumbling block vis-a-vis his election.

Asked for his opinion about the Carlton Hotel meeting, Raymond Iddih said: I have nothing to do with that meeting. He added that a call must be made for the convocation of the Chamber of Deputies before 13 September. Iddih stressed that if the Chamber does not convene, then the deputies must hold a meeting.

Iddih denied knowledge of any French initiative to eliminate the complications which are affecting the presidential elections. He declined to answer a question about the U.S. initiative. Raymond Iddih denied that any coordination is taking place with the Maronite patriarch. He affirmed that the patriarch belongs to all the Maronites and that he should not favor any specific candidate.

In the interview, Raymond Iddih disclosed that he has been holding contacts with politicians in East Beirut. When asked about the obstacles and difficulties which might prevent him from winning the elections, Iddih said: My conditions represent the stumbling block. I have openly declared my conditions, which I will implement if elected. I will visit the capitals of the five permanent UN Security Council states. I will ask Washington to implement Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. If my request is not met, I will resign after 20 days.

He went on to say: I will not be the president of an occupied country. Following Israel's withdrawal, I will unify the Lebanese Army and, at that stage, I will ask the Syrian Army to withdraw from Lebanon. I will see to it that all militia organizations are dissolved only when their heavy weapons are handed over. However, I must say that in order to reach these stages, the Israeli Army must first withdraw from Lebanon.

Birri Reserves Use of 'Military Option'

JN2608153588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Aug 88 p 20

[Interview with Nabih Birri, minister and leader of the Amal Movement, by Rafiq Nasrallah and Ibrahim Bayram; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD: How do you assess the current situation in light of obstructing the presidential elections?

Birri: I would like to say frankly through AL-ITTIHAD that we are facing an Israeli-American onslaught which is as dangerous as the 1982 military offensive. We will face this onslaught by resisting its results as we did in 1983 and 1984. The Lebanese Forces, President al-Jumayyil, and Army Commander Michel 'Awn together carried out repressive measures against deputies. They also worked to obstruct the election session. There are clear examples to this. Deputy Michael al-Dahir was kidnapped to Halat; Joseph Skaf, deputy and minister, also received a clear order from Army Commander Michel 'Awn not to attend the session; and Daniel Sampson, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut, asked a number of deputies not to attend the session.

AL-ITTIHAD: What is the nature of the measures the Amal Movement and the nationalist forces will take to face the situation?

Birri: We have our methods to prevent a state of vacuum in the country. As we resisted the Israeli invasion we will also resist this new alliance. These measures began today through the expanded meeting of the nationalist and Islamic forces. [The Lebanese nationalist and Islamic parties held a meeting in Beirut on 23 August.] This meeting will be followed by other escalatory steps to achieve accord before the presidential elections. Statements similar to the statement issued yesterday will also be issued by the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, the Islamic Grouping, the nationalist forces, and the Elie Hubayqah wing. A general national meeting will be held. It will be attended by independent Islamic and Christian personalities to adopt final positions.

AL-ITTIHAD: Does this mean the return to the military option?

Birri: Everything is possible. Since the beginning, we said that the military option is the only way to deal with this regime and enemy collaborators. We will announce our final stand at the central rally which the Amal Movement will hold on 31 August. We frankly say: No elections in Lebanon before achieving reconciliation. They should bear the consequences of any other stand. If there is a need to resort to the military option the response will be tough. The Syrian leadership was recently convinced by this slogan. All nationalist and Islamic forces were also convinced by this slogan.

AL-ITTIHAD: Not long ago, you supported the nomination of Army Commander Michel 'Awn in these elections.

Birri: Michel 'Awn has deceived us all and laughed at us. He submitted guarantees and working papers. However, he fell in the first test and lost his opportunity to reach B'abda. We bet on him to confront the Forces and hegemony, but he did not depart from the Maronite political hegemony at all.

AL-ITTIHAD: Some people say that President al-Jumayyil will form a de facto government to supervise the elections.

Birri: If Al-Jumayyil forms such a government he will be in fact issuing a decision to divide and fragment the country and he will become Lebanon's last president. In East Beirut, they are raising the slogan—the president of consensus. This slogan brought Ilyas Sarkis to the Presidency in 1976 and the crisis was not resolved because of the Phalangist hegemony. This same slogan also brought Al-Jumayyil to the Presidency in 1982 and did not benefit Lebanon.

AL-ITTIHAD: Does this mean that Lebanon is facing a state of constitutional vacuum?

Birri: The Constitution is clear in this regard. The present government under Al-Huss is carrying out the tasks of the president.

AL-ITTIHAD: But this will lead us to military conflagration?

Birri: This is possible. I would like to say through AL-ITTIHAD that the Lebanese Forces and Lebanese Army are preparing for this conflagration.

Ori Lubrani [name as published], Israeli activities coordinator in Lebanon, and a number of Israeli intelligence officers participated in the obstruction of the session. There are real preparations to explode the situation, not only in Beirut, but in other areas as well. Israel might move in eastern Sidon to support the stand of the Forces. We as a nationalist group do not intend to explode the situation at all. If the other party tries to do so the danger will reach all.

We received serious reports on a wave of assassinations against personalities and deputies in West Beirut by the other party. They began to kill innocent people in the streets. Nothing will prevent them from escalating their conspiracy.

Minister Birri Rejects Transitional Government

NC2908060588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has rejected the idea of a transitional government. He also ruled out the election of a new president before 23 September as long as some parties do not want reform or reconciliation, but the imposition of plans. These parties, he said, want only a transitional government.

This came in a statement to AL-NAHAR newspaper. Birri added: We do not accept a transitional government because the Al-Huss government is the legitimate one. Let them agree to reconciliation and political reforms. On Wednesday [31 August] I will speak on some important issues which they are trying to impose.

Paqraduni Comments on Strike, Elections

NC2608183388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1612 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Interview with Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, by an unidentified correspondent of the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation on 26 August; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr Paqraduni, you gave us an appointment outside the office. Does this mean you are on strike today?

[Paqraduni] No. I am happy today. I am happy about the situation. We can start talking about the strike.

[Correspondent] In view of the strike called by the nationalist forces at the Carlton Hotel conference, what is your stand, as representative of the Lebanese Forces? Why was such a decision made?

[Paqraduni] Why? It is a venting of Syria's anger against the United States. [passage omitted] However, we will not counter the strike with a strike; nor will we counter the escalation with an escalation. We will confront the high-sounding statements being made with great calm. We are confident of our stands, our positions, and our alliances. We will maintain calm and peace, and we will try to keep our hand extended to the end.

[Correspondent] For what purpose did they declare the strike, and what benefit do they expect from it? Do they benefit locally, regionally, or internationally?

[Paqraduni] Undoubtedly, the strike is to embarrass the United States. They know that the Americans are sensitive about such actions because America is a democracy affected by every act attacking it. Of course they staged the strike against U.S. and Israeli interference. Is there no Syrian interference? But we will not stage a strike against Syrian interference in the elections. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In any case, it is only a 1-day, symbolic strike. What do you expect to happen after the strike in light of the Carlton conference?

[Paqraduni] [passage omitted] At the Carlton they said they did not want presidential elections or a transitional government. Thus, they want a vacuum. For our part, we want presidential elections so as to avoid a transitional government, because we prefer having a president for 6 years to having a provisional transitional government of unknown tenure. They are advocating a vacuum. This is dangerous because a vacuum will lead to practical partition and partition will lead to a plan of annexation and separation in Lebanon. I am not surprised by their advocating a vacuum. They are doing with the Presidency what they have done with the government.

For 2 and ½ years they have been pursuing a policy of boycotting the government and now they are pursuing a policy of not holding elections. As they have boycotted the government, they are now trying to create a vacuum in the government. Consequently, as they have paralyzed the government for the past 2 and ½ years, they are now probably trying to paralyze the Presidency. Consequently, Lebanon will have a political and constitutional vacuum that will lead to the establishment and legalization of the status quo. This means partition, which will for all intents and purposes lead to Syria's seizing the greater part of the land and annexing it. [passage omitted]

They are now unashamedly, unhesitatingly talking about two governments, about taking over the Bank of Lebanon, and about partition. The masks have now begun to fall away and they are revealing their true image and real plan. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Then we are at a very dangerous crossroads. In other words, following the Carlton conference there may not be another [Chamber of Deputies] session, so long as obstruction remains a Syrian goal?

[Paqraduni] No. Undoubtedly they are trying through escalatory statements and a campaign to cover up or minimize their failure. Therefore, the campaign should be left to run its course. I believe they are trying to close all outlets, but these still exist. We are confident that there are three outlets in the Lebanese arena. The first is the American outlet. Despite Syria's sharp and vehement propaganda statements against the United States, we know that calm diplomatic talk is now taking place. Diplomatic contacts between Syria and the United States on the presidential elections have not stopped. Therefore, the first outlet is possibly through U.S. mediation to hold the elections on time.

The second outlet is up to former President Sulayman Franjiyah. By adopting a nationalist stand, he can withdraw his candidacy in favor of a president of conciliation he would help to choose. Naturally this would alter the entire course of the ongoing crisis.

The third outlet is through spiritual leaders. We are encouraging, or rather we are aware that Bkirki [seat of Maronite Patriarch Nasrally Butrus Sfayr], the mufti's office, the Higher Shi'ite Council, and the Druze spiritual leadership are holding bilateral and collective contacts to explore the possibility of adopting a stand and proposing a president of conciliation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Paqraduni, there is a Lebanese Forces stand, and there is a U.S. stand expounded recently by Oakley and other officials to the effect that the United States, among others in Lebanon, is seeking a president of conciliation. Is the common use of the word conciliation accidental?

[Paqraduni] There is nothing accidental in policy. There are convictions. We are now faced with two plans. The Syrian plan was expressed at the Carlton and is based on not holding elections and creating a vacuum, partition, and then annexation of large parts of Lebanon to Syria. In contrast, there is a Lebanese plan—I do not want to call it a Lebanese Forces plan. We believe the Islamic Grouping opposes what happened at the Carlton. We feel the Higher Shi'ite Council has reservations about what happened there. We feel the Arab world is exerting pressure to ensure elections.

Throughout the world, in Europe, the United States, and the Soviet Union, there is a desire to hold elections—election of a president of conciliation that will lead to national reconciliation, accord, and liberation of territory and the homeland. [passage omitted] These are the two plans. Whatever happens, we are confident that the national Lebanese plan will triumph over the Carlton plan.

[Correspondent] Despite everything you have said, the people feel we are heading for a more serious and delicate phase in light of the rise in the price of the dollar and the ongoing propaganda campaign which spares no one, with accusations leveled against the Lebanese Forces, the Army, the United States, and Iraq. In other words, there is a pressing general atmosphere that is making the people hate their daily (?lives).

[Paqraduni] You are right. There is a plan to make the Lebanese despair. We are resisting and will resist this plot. Whenever Syria finds itself in a difficult situation it tries to make the Lebanese despair. [passage omitted] However, I can emphasize to you that I am fully confident that by 23 September Lebanon will have a new president and will enter a new phase. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will he be a president of conciliation?

[Paqraduni] Yes, a president of reconciliation.

Syrian Official Rejects 'Imported' Solutions

NC2708063488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] A Syrian official has been cited as saying that Lebanon will not be a Sampson republic, a reference to the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires in Beirut. The Syrian official said that any solution prepared by a foreign side or imported from overseas will be rejected. According to the Syrian official, a solution in Lebanon cannot be worked out far from the borders of Lebanon and Syria.

Junblatt Opposes Saddam Policy, Supports Syria

NC2808132788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Speech by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, at the ceremony unveiling a plaque marking the opening of the Women's Social Al-Risalah Society in 'Alayh on 28 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] Honorable gathering: We shall never forget 'Alayh's noble Arab stand at the height of the Israeli-Phalangist plot against Lebanon and the Arab world. We will never forget the enormous sacrifices which 'Alayh had offered before the great liberation battle and before we reopened the Damascus Road to Beirut and to the South following the Bhamdum battle. We will never forget the stands adopted by Shaykhs Fadlallah and Tawfiq, and by 'Alayh's old and young on such national Arab occasions. It is for this reason that we meet today to renew the pledge of the Progressive Socialist Party and the civil administration to 'Alayh to help it in all educational, social, and economic fields, and to support it with all our capabilities and weapons. [applause]

We, who have offered a flood of blood, wonder whether we should permit the cheapening of these sacrifices by the flood of trivial, despicable, and mercenary candidates—except Sulayman Franjiyah, of course—who are elected by the silky checks, foreign intelligence, Israeli circles, and Arab reaction? [applause]

Is it permissible that we, who have offered this flood of blood, and who are in the mountain, the suburb, the South, Tripoli, Sultan Ya'qub, Kamid al-Lawz, and in every liberated nationalist area in Lebanon, should give those trivial people the nationalist areas as a gift? No. We will not return the liberated nationalist areas to them. We will not return these areas nor will we surrender our arms. We shall keep our weapons and we shall increase our training; we shall lie in wait for the new plot, which is similar to the 1982 plot, and which is targeted at the Arab, nationalist presence and Syria.

Now, more than at any time in the past, we tell Saddam Husayn, 'Arafat, Amin al-Jumayyil, and Israel that we are in the same political and military trench with Syria. [applause] If Saddam Husayn thinks—after his victory in a ridiculous war, a victory over the Persians, as he put it—that he can prove his Arabism in Lebanon through

the Phalangists or the Maronites, then we tell him: We are opposed to this policy and we have been and will continue to stand alongside Syria. This is not mere flattery. Walid Junblatt does not flatter anybody. Walid Junblatt expounds a policy that is clear to all. [applause] [passage omitted]

Lahd Says Presidency Should Remain Maronite

NC2708052888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The commander of the South Lebanese Army, Major General Antoine Lahd, has told foreign correspondents that the Lebanese Presidency should remain in the hands of Christians and, more specifically, in the hands of the Maronite community. Lahd said he is in favor of any president who wins the support of Christian leaders.

In an interview with the AL-MASIRAH magazine, Lahd said: I do not have any candidates, neither for reconciliation nor confrontation. I am for a president whose will is free, who is inspired only by Lebanese interests, and who will work to get the foreign armies out of the country.

SLA Explodes Booby-Trapped Renault

NC2608093988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] today announced that it has exploded a booby-trapped Renault 5. Plans had been made to take the vehicle into an area under SLA control. The extremist so-called Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for rigging the car with explosives and attempting to take it into the SLA-controlled area.

Resistance Shells Lahd Bra'shit Position

NC2508165488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Aug 88

[Excerpts] National resistance fighters fired a number of artillery shells at a position held by agent Lahd's militia on Bra'shit Hill. It has been reported that the position received direct hits and that the militia sustained a number of casualties. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, security sources in Hasbayya have stated that the occupation forces took more than 25 vehicles into the vicinity of Marj 'Uyun last night. These forces were put on maximum alert following the confrontation that took place between Islamic Resistance fighters and the occupation forces in western Al-Biqa' yesterday.

Syrian Casualties Reported in Separate Attacks

NC2808072388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Khalil 'Akkawi Forces of the 9 February Organization have claimed responsibility for ambushing a Syrian intelligence patrol in the 'A'ishah Bakkar area, in front of the Al-Sihyuni falafel store. An Organization spokesman said that the attack was carried out at 2215 yesterday, and involved machineguns and rockets. A military white Peugeot station wagon was destroyed and the six persons inside it were killed or wounded.

The same organization also claimed responsibility for firing a rocket at the Syrian position in the Nuns Schools in Al-Qubbah, Tripoli, at midnight last night. An Organization spokesman said five Syrian occupation soldiers were injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, Muhammad 'Ali 'Askar was killed this morning when a rocket hit the fourth floor of the Tokyo Building on Fakhr al-Din Street in Al-Ramlat al-Bayda'. The rocket was fired at one of the positions of the Syrian occupation forces in the area. [passage omitted]

In a separate development, the Beirut Martyrs Battalion has claimed responsibility for throwing a grenade at a Syrian position on Abu Firas Street near the Arab University in West Beirut.

Israeli Planes Fired on During Overflights

NC2908114988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1140 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Shortly before noon today, a squadron of Israeli warplanes flew at medium altitude over Sidon and the Palestinian camps. They were met with antiaircraft fire.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Opens National Assembly Session

LD2708130388 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, 27 Aug (BAKHTAR)—In accordance with Articles 85 and 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the second term regular legislative session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan was convened in Kabul this morning after the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, opened the work of the second regular legislative term of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan by delivering a comprehensive speech. He spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the delegates under the present circumstances for restoring peace and security and realizing the policy of national reconciliation.

Addresses Assembly

LD2708212288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1635 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at the opening of the second session of the National Assembly in Kabul on 27 Aug—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed representatives and senators. The second session of the National Assembly, the highest legislative body of the country, begins its work today. The elected representatives of the Afghan people, worthy representatives of the different sectors, and various national groups of our society are gathered in this hall today.

The new popular constitution of the Republic of Afganistan has given you extensive rights and great authority, the most important being that you should contribute to the establishment of peace in our ancient land. As long as blood is being shed, as long as factories and firms are not in operation, as long as the sound of explosions is heard, the buying and selling process will be disrupted. As long as this war continues, millions of our compatriots are poor.

Therefore, there is no other task so important nor any other goal of the leadership so patriotic and humanitarian than to realize the national reconciliation policy, end the bloodshed and fratricide, and ensure the agreement and unity of all the political forces inside and outside the country. This fully conforms with the national interest of the Afghan people.

To resolve this strategic task, much work has been done during the last 2 months since the first session of the National Assembly met. Our thoughts and efforts have been devoted to developing the national reconciliation policy, that is, the implementation of the Geneva accords. The honest approach of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to fulill their commitment has had good effects on the international community.

On 26 Asad [16 August] the first stage of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents was completed in which 50 percent of the Soviet contingents, together with their combat materiel, left Afghanistan. Since the completion of that first stage, there are no Soviet forces in 26 of the country's 32 provinces.

The representatives present in this hall will approve the aforementioned figures because have seen this situation in their own provinces. The remaining units and companies of the Soviet forces are stationed close to two transport highways, that is, Kabul-Hayratan and Herat-Kushk. The withdrawal of the aforementioned units will also begin at a suitable time in line with the Geneva accords. Accurate and unwavering conformity with the withdrawal schedule was hard work, but it has been done.

The opposition decided to hamper the process of the political settlement of the situation and to turn events to their own favor. From the point of view of the so-called strategists in Pakistan, the return of the limited Soviet contingents would have prepared the ground for their military activities. The fact that the United States and Pakistan ignored the situation had a significant, negative effect on the first stage of the withdrawal. A flood of arms and ammunition poured into our country. Extremist detachments and foreign military advisers were dispatched through the demilitarized border regions, regions that were set up to assist returning emigrants in line with the Geneva accords.

In recent weeks, forces opposing the Republic of Afghanistan have tried to test the strength and fighting capability of our goverment and our Armed Forces. As you know, the Western mass media broadcast to the world the opposition's plans concerning the occupation of the provinces of Afghanistan and the creation of a temporary government there. These plans were foiled, as was the old thesis of anti-Afghan propaganda that the Kabul regime holds power only with the bayonets of the Soviet Army.

The armed extremist groups were faced with a united and truly popular confrontation. Our heroic defenders in the various provinces proved to the entire country that the enemies of peace cannot pass through those areas where the spirit of unity, cohesion, and trust in victory is ascendant.

For example, the extremists have fired 21,000 rockets on Qalat, that is, 3 missiles for each inhabitant. These missiles have destroyed mosques and several houses. However, they did not shake the heroic and patriotic spirit of the true patriots. The patriotic forces have remained firm and have inflicted a crushing blow on the opposition. They have been transformed into a bright symbol of the defense of the homeland. We express our appreciation to these defenders.

Recent weeks have also taught us other bitter lessons. The events in Konduz have shown the entire country what can happen if we lack a decisive approach to the extremists, if we pay little attention to defense and security, and if there is disagreement among provincial officials who keep their distance from the people and are willing to surrender. Today, the city of Konduz is free and life is returning to normal in the province.

As I was leaving for this session I was given a message from the elders and dignitaries of Khanabad and Emamsaheb that the armed opposition groups of the two districts had agreed to negotiate. We will ensure peace in these districts on the basis of a coalition administration, without resorting to force, and we will enforce popular coalition sovereignty there soon. However, the wounds from the events in Konduz will take a long time to heal. We will revive Konduz soon and we will make it more beautiful. We will punish the officers in charge, whose cowardice and recklessness caused the tragedy.

However, we cannot resurrect the martyrs. We cannot console the orphans and widows. The only thing we can do and are obliged to do is never to allow a repetition of the Konduz events. We must also be prepared to use the tactic we used in Bamian. There we changed the positions of the units and detachments. The elders of Bamian asked us to declare Hazarajat a region of peace and neutrality. We plan to set up coalition or neutral zones in a number of districts and provinces on the basis of understanding and negotiation with the armed opposition groups, the people, the elders, and the influential people in those areas. The provinces of Sar-e Pol and Nurestan are among such areas.

Our heroic Armed Forces have combat capability and high morale, even though the invading enemies in Afghanistan are eying with hostility the national sovereignty of our country. However, we will defend our land, as our ancestors did, trusting in God.

The current session of the Naitonal Assembly starts its work on the eve of a happy and historic event. A joint Afghan-Soviet space flight will begin the day after tomorrow. The main crew and the back-up crew of the Soyuz spacecraft, which should connect with the MIR, or peace, space station, have been approved. The famous Soviet cosmonauts, twice Hero of the Soviet Union Vladimir Riyakov is the commander, and 'Abdul Ahad Momand and Valeriy Olyakov are the crew members. The back-up crew includes Lieutenant Colonel (Perozwali) as commander, and Dawran and (Arzamazov) as cosmonauts-researchers. An honored son of our country will represent the Republic of Afghanistan in space.

The cosmonauts were selected from among 800 pilots of the Afghan Air Force on the basis of various indices including physical fitness, professional skill, and scientific knowledge. Mohmand and Dawran learned their space technique and work program at the cosmonaut training center in Star City. The Afghan cosmonauts' work capability, determination, and friendliness won the respect of Soviet experts and flight crews.

Mohmand and Dawran are ordinary citizens of Afghanistan. Their families have ordinary roots. The cosmonauts did not even own their own homes. The undeclared war has affected both cosmonauts. Seven members of the Dawran family have been martyred. Both cosmonauts are real patriots and faithful Muslims. They deserve the highest praise.

The importance of the forthcoming flight will have a tremendous influence on a prosperous, independent, neutral, and nonaligned Afghanistan. Afghanistan is the fourth Asian country to enter the space path. Everyone, as Afghans and as patriots, is proud of this event. Not only will the cosmonauts enjoy this event, but the people will also. My dear friends, is not the flight of an Afghan cosmonaut a bright moment for the people of Afghanistan? is it not the first happy incident in years of war, destruction, sorrow, and misery? It is. All Afghans, both at home and abroad, should be proud of these heroes, the sons of the united people of Afghanistan.

In these historic times I again call on the opposition: Let us mark the historic flight of an Afghan cosmonaut with a nationwide cease-fire. Let common prosperity and pride unite our nation and our people. Let the space flight show the opposition those wasted opportunities which open the way to peace, goodness, and justice for the people of Afghanistan. Let us watch our eagle land from his spacecraft in peace and tranquillity.

During the flight a scientific research program will be carried out by the crew of the MIR station. This program has been named "Shamshad" in honor of the famous mountain which has been transformed into a symbol of honor and national pride for our people. The aim of the program is to solve the main tasks of studying the country's natural resources and the development of the national economy. Maps of oil fields and mines have been drawn up based on orbital research. The underground water reserves will be noted. The area and location of grazing fields and forests will be established accurately. Moreover, the best sites for setting up irrigation systems and many other issues will be determined. A scientific research center has been established within the framework of the General Department of Geodesy and Cartography in order to use in practice the data obtained from space.

The flight of an Afghan cosmonaut enhances the pride and merit of the Afghan nation and will raise the credibility of our country in the international community. The Afghan-Soviet flight became possible as a result of the selfless assistance of the friendly Soviet people and marks another milestone of cooperation and traditional good-neighborliness between us.

Joint research in space will continue in the future, too. Afghanistan will become a full member of the friendly family participating in the Intercosmos program.

I want to mention parliamentary work under conditions of continuous war and indiscriminate threats to our sovereignty and national unity. Unswerving and greater attention for the establishment of peace is demanded from each of you. The esteemed representatives and senators understand how important their role in the process of the national reconciliation policy is, how important their existence in the localities, the places where the destiny of homeland is now being decided.

I wish new and great successes for the present session of the National Assembly from the bottom of my heart. Thank you. [applause]

Najibullah Decree Names Space Flight Delegation
LD2608210588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Decree on the participation of a high-ranking state delegation in the ceremony marking the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight on 30 August 1988, issued in Kabul 26 August]

[Text] To celebrate gloriously the ceremony marking the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight, which has great historical importance for the people of the Republic of Afghanistan and which opens a new page in the history of Afghan-Soviet friendship, the Afghan delegation will consist of the following:
Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, minister of communications and head of the commission for the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight, as head of the delegation;
Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president and head of the Political Affairs Department of the Armed Forces in the PDPA Central Committee, member;
Muhammadullah Safi, ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Soviet Union, member;
Major General 'Abdul Qadir, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, member;
('Abdul Qayum Tota Khel), head of the Army Health Department, member;
Bahawal Darwish, head of geodesy and cartography of the Republic of Afghanistan, member;
Ghulam Sarwar Yuresh, head of the Public Information and Culture Department at the Office of the President and head of the BAKHTAR Information Agency, member;
(Muhammad Tahir Gewal), head of the Mines and Geology Department of the Ministry of Mines and Industry, member;
(Muhammad Asif Wadat), head of [word indistinct] department of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Afghanistan, member;
(Nur Muhammad Herman), head of Hydrometeorology and permanent representative of Afghanistan in the Meteorology Organization, member;
(Husayn Hilali), head of the Polytechnic Institute of Kabul, member.

The participation of this Afghan delegation is approved in the ceremony marking the joint Afghan-Soviet space flight.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

IRNA: Rebel Leader Predicts 'Triumph'
LD2808163188 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 28, IRNA—The Islamic jihad (struggle) is about to triumph in Afghanistan and an Islamic government will be formed in that country, announced head of Afghanistan's Islamic Party Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

Hikmatyar speaking at a press conference in the Pakaistani capital today, said the struggle of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries has entered a decisive stage and no one can deal a blow on it.

Hikmatyar condoling the recent death of Pakistani President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq, said the new leaders in Islamabad have followed and will continue to follow the policy of the former president. "Because", he added, "presence of Soviet occupation forces in Afghanistan endangers Pakistan's territorial integrity."

The ill-fated C-130 Hercules carrying Ziaul Haq had 30 passengers on board including Pakistan's top military brass and the U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel, and crashed 40 kms near the Indian border seven minutes after take-off from Bahawalpur on Aug. 17.

Hikmatyar announced that Konduz, Bamian, and Takhar (three northern provincial capitals) of Afghanistan are under the full control of mujahidin since the past two weeks.

Islamabad Notes Rebel Attack on Bagram Airfield
BK2908064788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have launched attacks on security posts around the Bagram Airfield in Parvan Province, inflicting heavy damage on the Kabul forces and seizing a large amount of weapons. Five posts were and captured destroyed.

Five Kabul forces were killed and 25 injured during renewed attacks on (?Narang) in Konarha Province. Another report says that the mujahidin launched an attack on the Kabul forces in the (Rodek Shinwar) region of Nangarhar Province, killing five soldiers and injuring six. Some weapons and military equipment were also damaged.

4 Killed in Rocket Attack on Kabul City
LD2708165288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon criminal extremists fired surface-to-surface rockets at the eastern suburbs of Kabul city. According to BIA's military section, 4 compatriots—2 children, 1 woman, and 1 man—were martyred and 12 were injured by this inhuman criminal act. A number of our compatriots' houses were also damaged.

Soviet Helicopters Deployed
BK2808031288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin launched a severe attack on the Afghan capital of Kabul, inflicting heavy damage. According to reports, at least 20 rockets were fired at the eastern region of the capital. This was the heaviest attack since June. According to a report, four persons were killed and several injured in the attack. Correspondents say that following the attacks, Soviet military helicopters attacked mujahidin positions in nearby mountains.

Meanwhile, the Kabul administration chief, Dr Najibullah, addressing the so-called parliament, accused his officials of cowardness and negligence and said they will be punished. He made this allegation following a rise in mujahidin attacks and the consistent failures of the Kabul administration's troops. He referred to the recent fighting in the northern province capital of Konduz, which, according to reports, is still under mujahidin control.

Mujahidin Reportedly Shoot Down Plane, Attack Base
BK2708111988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down a Kabul regime plane which was (?reconnoitering) the strongholds of the freedom fighters near Baghlan city. The mujahidin also launched a rocket attack on brigade headquarters at (Chablu Siraj) recently and killed eight Kabul troops, including an officer. Three Kabul regime troops joined the mujahidin during the operation.

Paktia 'Extremists' Crushed; Ringleader Killed
LD2608214188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] An armed extremist group attached to the Gulbuddin band was crushed today in (Zargol Ghar) region of Paktia Province.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of combat operations carried out by the country's Armed Forces, eight of the extremists including Sahargol, the ringleader of this group, were killed, and another 13 men seriously injured. A weapons and ammunition depot of the extremists was destroyed.

'Extremists' Put Pressure on Bamian Province
LD2608221388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] For several days armed extremist groups have put pressure on Bamian Province. By means of heavy attacks, plundering, and subversion they have disrupted the peaceful life of the people in this province.

After the signing of the Geneva accords and the start of the withdrawal of the Soviet limited units, a number of opposition armed groups in Bamian Province contacted government organs and asked that a coalition administration in Bamian be formed. Contacts and talks are now in progress. The extremists and warmongering elements, against the will of the peace-loving people who are engaged in talks with the government organs, want to sabotage this process by subversive and warmongering activities.

To secure the formation of a coalition government, units and companies of the Armed Forces in Bamian have been temporarily deployed.

To implement the policy of national reconciliation, the elders of Bamian have contacted the responsible government authorities and asked that their region be declared neutral. This matter will be considered in the near future at a special assembly.

Bangladesh

Flood Situation Worsens; Major Rivers Rising
BK2708163888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] The overall flood situation in the country has further deteriorated following rise in the water level of almost all the major rivers. The situation further worsens in Sunamganj District following incessant rain and the rise of water level in the Surma River. Eighty percent of the areas of Sunamganj town have gone under water and almost all the upzillas [subdistricts] of the district have been flooded for the fifth consecutive times this year. Two deaths have been reported from the district so far. Seven relief camps have been opened where over 2,000 flood victims have taken shelter.

Our Sylhet representative says all the upzillas of the districts have also been flooded with the rise of the Surma. In Faridkot, eight upzillas have been inundated in the last 24 hours following the sudden rise in the Padma and the [words indistinct]. About 2 lakh people have been affected and standing crop on 30,000 hectares damaged. [Words indistinct] have gone under water and 200,000 have taken shelter in safer places. Five hundred thousands [hectares] are reported to have been eroded by the Padma.

Reports from Rajbari say all the 39 unions of the district including the paurasabha [municipal area] have been inundated. Over 2 lakh people have been affected. Train communications from Rajbari to other places have been suspended. Twelve relief camps have been opened.

Our Rajshahi representative says all the major rivers in the northern region are flowing above the danger level. Due to onrush of flood waters more areas in Rajshahi District have been inundated. Road communications between Rajshai and Chapai Nawabganj has been snapped and the road is now under knee deep water. Seventy unions of nine upzillas under Sirajganj have been inundated affecting over 10 lakh people. Train communication in 11 sections of the railways western zone has been suspended due to inundation of rail lines by flood waters.

In Tangail 53 unions in 8 upzillas have been inundated and 5 lakh people have been marooned. Most of the areas of the district town is under water. The flood control embankment at [word indistinct] has been threatened. Relief operations are continuing. The flood situation in Dhaka District, in particular around the Dhaka-Narainganj and (Tongi) city, continues to deteriorate. [passage omitted]

Army on Alert; 'About 350' Dead

BK2908080388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Army has been alerted in Bangladesh as the flood situation took a serious turn today in 25 out of the 64 districts. The swollen Burhi Ganga River flowing above the danger level flooded several low-lying areas of the capital Dhaka and adjoining areas. The rail and road communications continue to be disrupted in several parts of the country.

A bridge on the Pabna-Nagarbari Road collapsed, snapping road links between Dhaka and northern and western districts. Twenty-eight more persons were reported to have drowned yesterday, raising the death toll during the current floods to about 350.

India

Police Firing Kills 1, Injures 2 in Srinagar

BK2608160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] In Srinagar city, one person was killed and two others injured when police opened fire today to disperse a violent mob in Nohatta and (Rajouri Kabal) area of the downtown.

An official spokesman said after the congregational prayer in Jama Masjid this afternoon, a large crowd came out and indulged in stone pelting in which a number of policemen were injured. When the lathi [baton] charge and teargas failed to chase them away, the police resorted to firing.

The spokesman said that life in other parts of the city remained peaceful.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

'Terrorists' Kill 10, Injure 4

BK2608145888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead 10 persons and injured 4 others in separate incidents since last night, while security forces arrested two terrorists following encounters.

In Amritsar District, terrorists gunned down eight persons, including three activists of CPI-M, and injured another two in village (Rutian) last night.

In another incident of the district, ex-sarpanch [village head] Surinder Singh, was shot dead by a terrorist in village Maisanpur under Mahta police station last night.

In two other incidents, terrorists shot at and injured seriously a farmer in a village near Tarn Taran in Amritsar District and a bank guard in village Matinda in Jullundur District.

The police also recovered a bullet ridden body near village Maheshdogar in Gurdaspur District.

The security forces arrested two terrorists after a brief encounter in Gurdaspur District. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

Bomb Explosion Kills 1

BK2708125088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, a powerful bomb exploded in Ajnala market of Amritsar District today killing 1 person and injuring 23 others. The explosion damaged many shops and two wheelers parked nearby. The bomb is believed to have been planted on a cycle outside a shop. The blast was so powerful that the handle of the cycle was blown off to a distance of 60 meters. Senior officials have rushed to the spot. Elsewhere in the state terrorists gunned down three persons.

3 'Terrorists' Killed

BK2808033088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists and a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] inspector were killed in an encounter in Amritsar District late last night. According to official sources, the encounter followed a raid by the security forces on a house in village Chainchak. In another incident in the district, the security forces recovered rifles and a large quantity of ammunition from a farmhouse where the terrorists took shelter after firing at a police party. One terrorist was arrested.

The death toll in yesterday's bomb blast at Ajnala town has risen to two with one more person succumbing to injuries. One person was killed on the spot and 26 others injured in the blast.

5 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK2908032488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces arrested five terrorists, while five persons were gunned down by terrorists in separate incidents in Ferozepore District yesterday. The arrests were made during raids at different places in the district. The terrorists were involved in a number of crimes, including at least 12 murders. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered.

Security Forces Seize Arms, Ammunition in Punjab

BK2608130488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces today seized a large number of sophisticated arms and ammunition in raids on two arms dumps of terrorists in Amritsar District.

The inspector general of police, Mr Chamalal, told newsmen in Amritsar that the arms dumps were raided on the information given by a terrorist nabbed in yesterday's encounter.

The arms recovered include 5 AK-47 assault rifles, 6 hand grenades and 7 electric detonators used in remote control explosions.

Soviet Class Submarine Commissioned in Bombay

BK2708160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] India's submarine strength has gone up further with the acquisition of INS Sindhuvir. Being the fourth in the [word indistinct] class has been acquired by the Navy from the Soviet Union.

INS Sindhuvir was commissioned in Bombay today. The flag officer commanding in chief Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral Sukhman Jain, earlier received the vessel on behalf of the Navy.

INS Sindhuvir can detect long range targets and charge sophisticated torpedos. It is commanded by officers and sailors who received training in the Soviet Union for over a year.

Plan To Install Nuclear Reactors Revealed

BK2808094988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The Nuclear Power Corporation has drawn up an ambitious plan of installing a series of atomic power reactors to meet the 10,000 megawatt target by the turn of the century. These include 12 pressurized heavy water reactor units of 500 megawatt each. The managing director of the corporation told our correspondent that the construction work is in full swing at Narora and Kakrapar projects. He said the work is to begin soon at Kaiga in Karnataka and on another two units of the Rajasthan Plant.

Army To Help Flood Victims in Eastern States

BK2808161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The Army has been called out in Assam and Bihar to help the marooned people as the flood situation has further worsened. The West Bengal Government has also sought the help of the Army and the Air Force for rescue and relief operations.

In Assam, the Army has been pressed into service for rescue and relief operations in and around Guwahati. About 300,000 people have ben rendered homeless in the city. Thousands of people are being shifted to safer places. School and other buildings have been converted into relief camps. Road communications to the south-eastern parts of the city have been completely paralyzed. In Dhubri District, the flood situation became very critical today as all communication links got cut off. All schools in Guwahati city will remain closed indefinitely from tomorrow due to the floods.

The union agriculture minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas of upper Assam this morning. Mr Bhajan Lal said the center will give an additional 5,000 tons of rice to the state. Talking to newsmen in Guwahati, he said the state government has demanded 70.4 crore rupees assistance to tackle the flood situation.

In Arunachal Pradesh, floods and landslides have affected road communication. The road link with neighboring Assam has been snapped as the national highway number 52 has been submerged at several points. The swollen rivers flooded vast areas in the foothills causing widespread damage. Relief operations are continuing.

In Bihar, the situation in Kathihar District has worsened with the swollen Mahananda threatening its embankments at several places. According to official sources two columns of Army personnel and 50 speed boats have

been requisitioned to assist local administration in the relief and rescue operations. The Ganges and Kosy embankments are also being eroded at several points. The flood waters entered low lying areas of Kathihar town yesterday. A large number of families are being evacuated to safer places. The surface communication between a number of blocks and district headquarters has been snapped. All train services on the Radhikapur-Kathihar section have been suspended because of over-topping of tracks by the flood waters.

Reports reaching Calcutta say that seven districts of West Bengal are in the grip of floods. These include West Dinajpur, Cooch Behar, and Malda. The situation was reviewed at a high-level meeting in Calcutta today. It was decided to cancel leave of all government employees in the affected districts to coordinate the relief work. The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has asked three of his cabinet colleagues to rush to the flood affected areas of North Bengal to supervize the relief and rescue operations. The union agriculture minister will visit the flood hit areas of the state tomorrow.

In Uttar Pradesh, all the major rivers have crossed the danger at several places. According to an official spokesman the current floods have claimed over 450 lives so far.

In Bangladesh, over 2 million people have been marooned in the flood ravaged areas. The Army has been deployed for rescue operations in the worst affected areas.

Iran

Continued Reportage on Talks in Geneva

2d Round Resumes

LD2608124988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Report from Geneva by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] The second round of talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq's foreign ministers resumed under the supervision of Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, in the Francisco de Victoria Hall at the UN general headquarters. The talks, which were adjourned until today after 6 hours last night, will continue in accordance with the agenda set by the secretary general. It seems that the agenda of the current talks, which are being held behind closed doors, in the first stages includes the designation and announcement of the timetable for the implementation of the remaining clauses of Security Council Resolution 598, especially the issue of the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders.

As he opened the first round of talks last night, the UN secretary general stressed his own role as the implementor of Resolution 598 on the basis of the powers given to him by the Security Council and described his implementation plan as the basis of the resolution. At the same time, he asked for the full implementation of Resolution 598.

At the end of the first round of talks, the UN secretary general announced to a gathering of reporters that important issues were discussed during this first round. He expressed satisfaction about the progress of talks and described the first round as a serious beginning. De Cuellar stressed that it was too soon to speak of success in connection with the talks. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Geneva.

Velayati Comments

LD2608134688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1304 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 26 (KUNA)—Iran's "valid criteria" for a just and honourable solution to the Gulf conflict was the Resolution 598 implementation plan put forward by the secretary-general and the 1975 treaty between Iran and Iraq, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said

In a statement to journalists after a morning session of talks in the United Nation building he first commented "during these two days we have had one round of official (?directives under) the auspices of the secretary-general and also some private and unofficial talks with his colleagues."

"We do hope we can reach a comprehensive, just and honourable peace for the region, if both sides show their goodwill practically.

"To reach a just and honourable solution we have valid criteria....the Resolution 598 implementation plan of the secretary-general and the 1975 treaty between Iran and Iraq, Velayati said.

The minister declined to respond to questioning on the 1975 Algiers Agreement, which defined the border as the deep channel in the Shatt al-Arab waterway or to answer any other questions.

In a reference to the the state of the ceasefire, the minister said that there had been some small difficulties, and that it was hoped that (?with) the guidance of the secretary-general these could be overcome.

KUNA on Border Issue

LD2608123588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1150 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 26 (KUNA)—The negotiators in the Iran-Iraq talks here were having problems on how to tackle the first point of Resolution 598, and both Iran and Iraq have twice been asked to submit proposals on how to overcome the difficulty, according to highly-placed diplomatic sources close to one of the delegations.

The first point refers to a withdrawal to internationally recognised boundaries.

It was understood that in propositions submitted by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar specific reference was made to the Algiers Agreement of 1975, which defines the border as being along the deepest point of the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

No reference to this agreement was made in Resolution 598, which only calls for a return to internationally-recognised borders.

It was understood that when the secretary-general first met the two ministers on Thursday afternoon, both gave him their ideas on how negotiations should be conducted on this point.

He subsequently asked them to submit new ideas on this, to [word indistinct] given to him on Friday morning. "At the start of the Friday talks there was still a problem over this issue", the sources said.

The two sides had, however, reiterated that the ceasefire line cover Gulf waters, as far south as the Strait of Hormuz, they went on.

One other area concentrated in the initial session of talks Thursday had been the repatatriation of elderly and sick prisoners.

2d Round Ends 'Smoothly'

LD2608143988 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 26 Aug 88

["Second Round of Peace Talks End Smoothly in Geneva"—IRNA Headline]

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26, IRNA—The second round of Iran-Iraq peace talks started at the U.N. European Headquarters here with a meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar at 12:15 Tehran time today, Perez de Cuellar's spokesman told reporters. Following the meeting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met the U.N. secretary-general.

The spokesman, Francois Giuliani, termed the separate meetings between the U.N. chief and foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq as having been "normal," and denied Western media reports which suggested that the separate talks indicated obstacles in peace talks process.

Giuliani said the delay in today's talks was in response to a request by the U.N. secretary-general.

Velayati who is leading a 13 man-delegation to the U.N.-sponsored peace talks arrived at the U.N. office here nearly one hour later than schedule.

The spokesman said that the two delegation were put up in separate rooms adjacent to the main conference hall.

He also refuted as 'pure fabrication' a report by the official IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) suggesting the appointment of the Swiss president as Perez de Cuellar's representative to the peace talks. There are speculations that Perez de Cuellar's personal representative at the talks will be from Sweden or Austria.

Velayati on Hopes

LD2608152288 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope today that tripartite talks between Iran, Iraq and the United Nations would lead to a just and honourable peace in the Persian Gulf.

He said to reporters here that the Security Council Resolution 598, and the U.N. chief's plan for its implementation as well as the 1975-Algiers Accord between Iran and Iraq provide good ground for peace between Iran and Iraq, if mutual good-will be shown.

Velayati said nothing has yet threatened a cease-fire which it went into effect last Saturday, but added "there are minor issues which we hope will be overcome under the guidance of the secretary general."

The second round of talks between the two countries ended at 12:00 GMT today. Negotiations were to resume at 13:30 hours GMT today.

In addition to its unofficial and private talks with Perez de Cuellar and his advisors, the Iranian delegation has also held one round of official and direct talks with Iraqi delegation under the U.N. chief's supervision since its arrival here on Thursday.

Talks Resume 2 Hours Late

LD2608182488 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26, IRNA—Talks between Iran and Iraq resumed here at 19:15 hours (15:45 GMT) today, two hours later than schedule. The second round of talks is three-sided, but no agenda has been released.

According to the U.N. chief's spokesman Francois Giuliani talks will probably continue on Saturday afternoon.

Velayati on 'Side Issues'

LD2608183188 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today that proposal of side issues in the ongoing peace talks would impede negotiations.

According to Imam Khomeyni's important guidelines Iran wants a lasting peace, but proposal of side issues hinders the talks, the chief Iranian negotiator told Iranian reporters here.

Velayati expressed hope that the two countries would continue their talks with realistic good-will and avoid irrelevant issues. our-of-discussion. [as received]

It is still too soon to predict the end-result of the talks and future prospect of the negotiations, said Velayati, but hoped that Iraq's pretentions to peace are real.

In the course of the talks the Iranian delegation held unofficial and private talks with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his colleagues in order to facilitate solving issues relevant to the implementation of the Resolution 598, Velayati said.

He said completion and expansion of the ceasefire is the most urgent move which should take place. Withdrawal of the two countries' forces to the international boundaries is another step which should be declared immediately by the U.N. chief, Velayati added.

The Iranian minister said according to the U.N. chief's plan implementation of some articles of the resolution might occur concurrently, and that some articles might need more priority in the wake of the Perez de Cuellar's plan and New York talks.

3d Round Ends

NC2708050488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] The third round of Geneva talks, which are taking place between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers and are being held under the supervision of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, ended late last night after approximately 4 hours of talks behind closed doors.

At the conclusion of these talks, the UN secretary general stated that even though these talks will be lengthy, there are many hopes, nevertheless, in view of the frankness being displayed at the talks, that these will be useful. Expressing satisfaction on the course of the talks, he disclosed that no meeting or talks will take place today. He added that the fourth round of talks will be held on Sunday. The UN secretary general also noted that the talks are making progress.

Meanwhile, in light of the refusal of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to answer correspondent's questions or to express any view thus far, news sources believe that this silence by the Iraqis signals a weakness in their position at the talks. On the other hand, the Iranian delegation's close relationship with the correspondents and the Iranian foreign minister's constant meetings with them has been interpreted as a sign that calm exists among the Iranian delegation.

Velayati on 'Marginal Issues'

LD2708050788 Tehran IRNA in English 0502 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 27, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday that certain marginal issues were being raised (by Iraq) during the peace talks here which according to him were outside the framework the two sides had already agreed upon and expressed fear that "this will slow down the trend of the negotiations."

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, Velayati reiterated that a durable peace in the region will depend on the full and precise enforcement of the Security Council Resolution 598 and the U.N. chief's implementation plan.

Iraq, some sources says, wants full sovereignty over Shatt al-Arab (Arvand River) as well as an immediate clearing of the waterway. But according to the 1975 agreement signed by the two countries the strategic waterway will be used by both sides.

After two days of talks which started on Thursday and ended late Friday night, the Iranian and Iraqi delegations were given one day pause to consult their countries to hopefully find ways for progress in the talks.

At the end of the second day of the talks, Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters that Friday's talks were 'frank' and expressed hope the explicit negotiations he had sponsored will continue between the two delegations.

The U.N. chief said many points had been clarified during the two days of "encouraging" talks but did not elaborate.

He also declined to answer a question whether any of the two parties had raised preconditions during the Geneva talks.

Asked if he predicted some flexibility by the sides of the negotiations, Perez de Cuellar said it was too early to comment on that.

Velayati in his interview with IRNA expressed hopes that by displaying "practical good-will" the two sides will achieve "practical results" to satisfy both parties.

He said the talks were explicit and effective and that both sides expressed their viewpoints openly. Iran's stance, he stressed, is strong as ever and in support of the Islamic Republic's legitimate rights. This, however does not mean disregard for the rights of others, he noted.

On the way the talks were being conducted, he said each side addressed the secretary general in turn and at the same time heard the viewpoints of the other side while sitting face-to-face. "There is good-will and understanding between us and the secretary general, as ever," he remarked.

Asked about the duration of this round of the talks, he said it was not predictable at this stage.

UN Chief Comments

LD2708120688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1127 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 27 (KUNA)—The Iran-Iraq negotiations on the implementation of Resolution 598 were being conducted at a slow pace and in an atmosphere of distrust, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Saturday.

"We are working at rather a slow pace because we are working in an atmosphere which is understandably an atmosphere of distrust so far," he told journalists at the United Nations Building this morning.

"I hope that slowly they are going to build up a better climate for the talks", he added.

During the three sessions of meetings so far which he was "chairing" both ministers had been "highly polite and they have listened to each other with patience and, I hope, with understanding", De Cuellar said.

The talks were broken off on Friday evening for 36 hours to allow time for "reflection" and in the hope that each would start to show flexibility, the U.N. chief had said yesterday.

The secretary-general said today he hoped to arrange a timetable for further rounds of talks before he left Geneva, noting that he had to be in Lisbon on Thursday.

United Nations officials were continuing to work in connection with the negotiations today, but there were no contacts planned with either of the two delegates, U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani said later.

It was understood that on Saturday evening Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz would receive several Arab Gulf ambassadors.

There were no plans for any meeting between the Iraqi minister and chairman Yasir 'Arafat of the PLO, who is in Geneva Saturday to see the U.N. secretary-general.

Committee Suggested

LD2808162988 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28 IRNA—The U.N. secretary-general has suggested that an impartial committee be set up to identify the party responsible for the start of Iraq-Iran war and release its findings by the end of November, sources close to the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva revealed Sunday.

The sources disclosed that Javier Perez de Cuellar had made the proposal during his opening session of talks with Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers at the Geneva-based U.N. European headquarters on August 25.

The U.N. chief, according to the 6th Article of Resolution 598, had called on both Iran and Iraq to agree to the establishment of an impartial committee within at most three weeks after the U.N. mediated ceasefire went into effect on August 20, they said.

The committee will be composed of three impartial political experts including a chairman from the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the sources said.

The committee is duty-bound to regularly keep the U.N. chief abreast of its activities and to release all its findings within 90 days after the ceasefire, the sources said.

Both Iran and Iraq have also been asked that each send a liaison officer to cooperate with the committee, the sources said.

The committee will be authorized to determine the limits of its powers itself, freely travel in the region and take any measure deemed necessary to identify the party responsible for the start of the almost 8 year old war, the sources concluded.

Velayati Briefs Press

LD2808230688 Tehran IRNA in English 2238 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reiterated here Sunday night that the 1975 agreement between Iran and Iraq was fully valid and could not be abrogated unilaterally by any of the parties.

Briefing reporters after Sunday's lengthy peace talks which resumed after a day of break and which lasted for some eight hours, Velayati said before leaving the U.N. European headquarters that the Islamic Republic's efforts were based on implementation of all the articles of the Security Council resolution 598 and that in Tehran's view the secretary general's implementation plan must bear fruit.

The foreign minister, while reiterating Iran's support for Javier Perez de Cuellar's proposals, stressed that the entire world was now aware that Iraq was trying to stumble the implementation of 598 by raising such preconditions as dredging the Arvand River (also known as Shatt al-Arab).

These Iraqi requests, he regretted, are being raised while the main subject of the peace talks, following the acceptance of ceasefire by both sides, is immediate troop withdrawal to the international border.

In reply to a question, Foreign Minister Velayati said the 1975 agreement was a permanent, unchangeable and decisive agreement and reminded that both Iran and Iraq had signed the pact and that its unilateral abrogation was not possible.

After ordering his army's invasion into Islamic Iran, Iraq's Saddam Husayn tore up the 1975 treaty and abrogated it unilaterally in the vain hope that he would conquer Iran in a few days or weeks.

In Iraq, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi said Sunday that the 1975 treaty no longer existed and that Iran must try to negotiate a new pact.

Shortly after the circulation of Hammadi's statement by Iraqi officials here at the U.N. headquatters, the Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz suddenly left the negotiation table but talks with the secretary general continued until the end of the session at 23:00 hours.

There were no immediate explanations why 'Aziz had suddenly left the conference hall.

Foreign journalists and observors closely following the peace talks here maintain that this round of the negotiations may be prolonged because of the obstacles Iraq created on the way of the talks.

Velayati said the peace talks will continue Monday despite Baghdad's efforts to bring them to a deadlock by raising irrelevant issues such as full sovereignty over the Arvand River and its dredging before withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized borders.

According to U.N. sources, Monday's talks will not be attended by the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers.

On the third day of the peace talks the two sides held indirect negotiations under the auspices of the U.N. chief.

Contrary to the Iranian delegates who are in constant touch with the foreign media, the Iraqi delegates have refused to meet the press since Thursday when the talks started.

The U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar regretted that conditions for immediate troop withdrawals to the pre-war borders had not been provided yet. He also said it was not possible to predict a time limit for this round of the talks.

Addressing reporters half an hour after Sunday's talks ended, the U.N. chief stressed that the main goal of the current talks here was the full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598, including the issues of ceasefire and troop pullback to the border.

He said he was trying to find a formula to create some sort of political understanding between Iran and Iraq, adding that he believed the existing problems must be overcome.

Perez de Cuellar declined to answer a question by a reporter on disputes between Iran and Iraq over the international borders, saying he wanted to remain neutral and side [as received] with any party by expressing his viewpoint.

Asked if his optimism over the future of the peace talks had diminished, the U.N. chief said he was never optimistic but tried to be rather realistic when coping with a certain issue.

4th Round Ends

NC2908053388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] The fourth round of talks, which are being held between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers, and under the auspices of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, ended last night after 6 hours.

During this round of talks, the three sides did not meet simultaneously; rather, several rounds of talks were held between the UN secretary general and each foreign minister separately.

Commotion could be observed among the Iraqi delegation. When two messengers delivered a letter to the Iraqi delegation, Tariq 'Aziz and the delegation accompanying him suddenly left the hall by a secret door and refused to meet with correspondents. Shortly thereafter, the Iraqi officials distributed statements among the correspondents citing Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs. These statements clearly reflected Iraq's wish to start a propaganda commotion.

At the conclusion of last night's talks, our foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, was interviewed by correspondents. Emphasizing the need to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, he called for drawing up a definite timetable for the full implementation of the

resolution. Responding to a question by correspondents on Sa'dun Hammadi's recent remarks in Baghdad, our foreign minister said: Border pacts are definitive and irrevocable. In this respect, the 1975 pact is a comprehensive border pact which cannot be unilaterally abrogated. Dr Velayati added: The unilateral abrogation of such border pacts by one of the two signatories does not render the pact invalid.

Following our foreign minister's statement, the UN secretary general disclosed to the correspondents that the talks have reached a difficult stage. He stressed that the difficulties should be solved. Perez de Cuellar revealed that the Iranians have accepted his proposed timetable and pointed out that the current difficulty lies in ending the cease-fire phase and commencing the phase of withdrawal to the international borders. The UN secretary general noted that the return of the forces to international borders is of vital significance. He said that the talks will continue today at the level of experts.

Tehran Report

NC2908063488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] Despite the silence on the talks' agenda, the outcome of the current talks, and the possibilities that exist in the talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers and the UN secretary general, it appears that before announcing the withdrawal of forces, the UN secretary general wants to solve the remaining issues concerning the cease-fire in a way that will help pave the ground for announcing the withdrawal of the two forces to the international borders.

The Iraqi delegation's preconditions have given rise to concerns over the slowing down of the process of the implementation of Resolution 598 and of the UN secretary general's implementation plan. The UN secretary general is now confronted with the question of why he has been negligent in announcing the date of the withdrawal of forces and the formation of the committee to determine the aggressor.

On the basis of the texts of Resolution 598 and of the UN secretary general's plan, the withdrawal of forces should have been announced immediately after the cease-fire took effect. Media circles are asking the UN secretary general why no step has been taken in relation with these during the past 10 days. Meanwhile, the UN secretary general himself had raised, on several occasions, the issue of the formation of a committee to determine the aggressor as a step to be taken in parallel with the cease-fire. This decision also is still pending.

At any rate, in view of the rights which the Security Council has vested in the UN secretary general at various stages, and in view of the explicitness of the resolution on announcing such decisions, UN news circles are asking why the UN secretary general has not yet been able to state a clear decision on this.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2608210088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1306 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Second sermon by President 'Ali Khamene'i at the Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran on 26 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Before discussing other issues I would like to mention the issue of the agricultural census. Our brothers in the Agriculture Ministry and the Plan and Budget Ministry have asked me to remind you, dear brothers and sisters all over the country, that this census begins tomorrow. This census is a necessary task. In accordance with the law, this census will take place by the order of the president, on the initiative of the Plan and Budget Ministry, and with the help of all state organs. However, nothing will be achieved without the people's assistance. The objective of this agricultural census is to find out precisely what and how much is produced in this country.

We have no accurate data on our agricultural production yet. For the sake of future planning it is necessary to know how much agricultural land there is, what percentage of it is fertile, how much land is under cultivation, what crops are produced and in which regions, what breeds of livestock there are, who is managing the livestock farms and how are they carrying out their task, and how we can record all this data. Just as with the general population census, when we repeatedly told the people: how can we plan for the people's comfort, food requirements, administrative affairs, and the rest unless we know how many people there are in different regions, so we have to know how much agricultural land there is, where it is, what it is used for, and who is farming it and how, so that we can plan for the development of agriculture.

Of course, no one should think that the government's objective in this planning and data collection is to take control of the people's assets and property. It is not like that at all. The government does not have any such objectives. The government believes that in the agricultural sector it is for the people to be in control of this heavy burden of responsibility. The people should invest, work, and strive on their own initiative. The government should assist them, and it will do so. The government should help the people by giving them such things as fertilizer, pesticides, livestock breeding equipment, farm machinery, and by organizing the agricultural extension workers to help the people.

The people should do the work, and the government will do the planning. For instance, certain crops are planted in unsuitable regions. This does not benefit the country. The government should plan and determine which crops should be cultivated and in which regions and what breed of cattle and animals should be introduced. The government plans, and the people implement the plan.

Planning, however, requires data and statistics which do not exist now. We do even not know precisely how much wheat is produced in the country. What has been said to date is only an estimate. We should know all this because no planning is possible without data. These things were not at all popular during the former regime's era. They either did not know, or if they did, the people did not cooperate with them. Thanks be to God, despite the problem of the war and other difficulties, we have so far performed some of the task. But there is still a lot to do and that must be done.

I therefore remind you, dear brothers and sisters, that this census will start tomorrow, God willing, and everyone, particularly the rural, farming families should assist the census-takers as far as possible by giving accurate answers. [passage omitted]

Now for the other issues that I wish to bring to your attention. First, I would like to present a brief report to you on my visit of the past few weeks to the front and border regions. Of course, I did not manage to go to all the regions as time was short. Maybe I will visit the other areas in the future, God willing.

I visited the border areas of Khuzestan and inspected the units stationed there, both the Army and Guards Corps units. I sat and talked with them for long hours. I met and conferred with dozens of groups, the brothers of the Corps, Mobilization, and the Army. We sat and talked, we heard their comments, and made recommendations. The result of this visit for me personally was a better understanding of our combatant forces. I know them better. [passage omitted]

Hundreds of thousands of young people—of course, there were older people among them too—set out from all over the country and came to the fronts. In every one of the units comprising the mobilization forces, that is, the divisions and brigades of the IRGC, which I visited, the noise of the crowd that had come was so great that sometimes the commanders would appeal to us: If it is possible, please tell them not to come over. Of course, we would explain that no, in Tehran our brothers thought it best to give a sign so that the trend would slow down a bit; that was all right too. But, at the same time the concentration of these numbers there was incredible. Our brothers were saying that they had never seen such a huge movement and rallying since the war began, except on one or two other occasions.

Then I must mention the enthusiasm and excitement of these young people. The first days we were there were during the time the Iraqi regime was still engaged in its thrusts and penetrations. It was penetrating inside the borders and thrusting forward and positioning itself. The situation was ominous. There were bombings, chemical bombings, extensive bombings during those days. One night I went to a clinic and there were 800 people there, close to 800 people there who were being treated for injuries from chemical weapons. We visited them there. All these people had been injured in those past few days.

Well, most of them were treated and got better, and they returned again to the fronts. That is, to the fronts and got to work again. Those bombings, those chemical bombings, and those hostile and aggressive moves that were being carried out made these children so passionate that they were continuously insisting that they were ready for attacks and operations. They wanted us to give them permission to go and attack the enemy. I believe—truly, my assessment was this, and it was correct—that if they had carried out an operation at that point they would have penetrated to depths never previously reached by our forces. They were so enthusiastic and passionate.

Of course, this was at a time when we had already accepted the resolution. The enemy was still trying to come up with pretexts, was setting conditions, was saying irrelevent things, and was not prepared to accept reality and truth. This same strong presence of our combatants solved the problem on a world level. It solved the political problem. The world saw what was happening on the fronts. Thanks to God for the organizational and combat strength of our military leaders. They were able to organize the volunteers. They were organizing and sending them to the front lines or kept some of them in a state of readiness behind the fronts. They trained others. All in all, they were itching to carry out operations in those first days. Finally. The Iraqi regime was compelled to declare that it accepted the resolution, and the cease-fire date was also announced.

The forces remained as enthusiastic as ever, except, of course, they were submitting to orders from the Imam. When I went to one of the divisions, the commander spoke to me and all these combatant forces, full of fervor, chanted: God is the greatest: I was truly pleased at this show of strength and commitment. The fighting morale and military readiness were there and so was the attitude of commitment.

The commander said to me: Tell our dear imam that we are just like the person who came to Imam Sadeq [sixth imam of the Shi'ites] and said to him: This apple that you have in your hand now, if you were to tell us that half of the apple is religiously forbidden to eat, and the other half of it is religiously permissible to eat, we would not ask how an apple from one tree and branch could be half and half. We would ask no questions; we submit to our faith and accept whatever you say.

So the commander said: We are just like that person. Our imam tells us one day: War is a duty, and this becomes our religion and our faith and we will stand to our last breath. And today he graciously tells us: Cease-fire is the duty, this is in the interest of Islam. We believe in this with all our existence and convey our message to the imam and tell him that we submit to his orders and instructions and we consider whatever he says as our religion and we (?are ready). [crowd chants slogans]

This is the morale of the young combatants who are at the battlefronts. Even now the fronts are full of combatant forces. They said: We are not returning until they tell us to return and that there is no further need to stay at the fronts. We stressed that while the negotiations had not yet settled into their right track and had not gotten anywhere, our combat capabilities should be fully prepared for action. Of course, combat and defense capabilities should always exist at a maximum level.

At the moment, however, everything should be in a state of readiness so that the enemy will think it can bully and push us around, and so that the world will not imagine that it can push the Islamic Republic even one step back from its rightful stances. So we told them to remain. They are there, they are committed until such times when their commanders tell them, until the war officials tell them that it is not necessary now, or that only half the numbers are needed, or whatever. The fronts remain as they were, right now. [passage omitted]

Thanks be to God, our mobilization forces have this kind of readiness about which I have been telling you. Of course, my duty as a Muslim brother calls, otherwise, I am a nobody when it comes to thanking people. The people responded to the call of their leader, and this is not the first time they have done this. They have always done this, and I am one of the crowd. But, truly, as a brother, as an official, I deem it necessary to express my profound thanks for this great movement of the Iranian nation. You have carried out a great deed. You replied well. You responded well to the call. You carried out this movement at its appropriate place and time.

I also deem it necessary to thank the esteemed Friday prayer leaders all over the country. I sent a message to the esteemed Friday prayer leaders all over the country, and I told them that I was going to the fronts and I thought it would be good if they also came. They came, from all over the country, they came to the operational regions. [passage omitted] The same is true of other strata. I must mention the physicians, especially. They truly and justifiably can be said to have performed great deeds. [passage omitted]

The forces of the IRGC and the Army too are truly and sincerely praiseworthy, each in their own way. The IRGC is an organization which arose from the revolution and in the early days of the war. It was a faithful but small and limited organization. Today, wherever a person goes to the war fronts, there are strong and powerful divisions with many facilities and good commanders. I must thank especially the commanders of the IRGC divisions, faithful and pious brothers. All the commanders of the IRGC divisions and brigades I met I have found to be remarkable personalities and sincere youths; their combat capabilities too are good in all fairness. They are experienced and informed. They were well able to learn their duties during these few years and to act on them. If the war had done nothing else for us than develop such determined and capable people, it truly and really did a great thing.

They are faithful and enthusiastic youths. Some of these youngsters who are divisional commanders today are the very same people who, as I said, have been at the fronts for 7-8 years and have been injured many times. Some have lost an eye, some a finger, a hand, some are disabled, but they hold a command. They are commanding with great strength and, in all fairness, they are worthy people. One can see the true color and nature of the revolution in their faces, and one envies them when one sees how dear and worthy they are.

The same can be said of other IRGC cadres who all perform their duties in their own way. They have made especially good moves toward discipline. I visited some units and saw that what was lacking in the Guards Corps units, a tangible shortage, that is, of discipline, is being gradually established to a great extent in the units. The brothers have understood very well the value of discipline and military orderliness.

Also, regarding the Army, I visited some Army units and I was truly struck with awe and amazement. The brothers in the Army, too, during these 8 years in the trenches, behind earth works, in the most difficult terrain have really begun a new life. The Army was not like that before the revolution. The Army was not one of mountains and deserts, of mortary, artillery, and fire. It was the army of cities and streets. It was the army of clubs. today, the commanders of divisions, the commanders of brigades, young officers, officers who have risen on merit, and also the others who serve in one of the army occupations on the fronts are truly and in all fairness men of combat. They are prepared for war. They have also resisted well.

In the very regions which the enemy attacked recently, whether in the southern or in northern region of Khuzestan, I examined things thoroughly. I carefully studied the operational reports. I examined them and assessed them myself. I understood what had happened, and it was my opinion that the Army had performed very well. It has been selfless. It has performed well. Despite the fact that in terms of publicity and in terms of what goes on in people's minds, the details of the Armed Forces' brothers—the ground force, of course—is not very well understood, they are, nevertheless, performing their task with full sincerity. No one goes to interview them. No one goes to ask them: What did you do? How did you

act? Nevertheless, with that same discipline which they possess they truly perform well the task they must perform. Of course, the absolute majority are like that. [passage omitted]

I must not end these remarks without mentioning the reconstruction Jihad. The Reconstruction Jihad, too, has behaved like a combat unit in the field. They are builders, but they are combatants too. One is really delighted when one sees the Reconstruction Jihad youths. They, too, had formed headquarters for several years: the Karbal headquarters, the Najaf headquarters. They, too, had formed battalions, combat formations. And, of course, it makes no difference. If someone is going to go directly before the enemy's bullet, what difference does it make whether he is going there to build a trench or to fire an RPG? In any case, building a trench is more difficult than firing an RPG. That is what the Reconstruction Jihad has done. [passage omitted]

Having returned from my trip which lasted several weeks, I am filled with gratitude to God because, with God's grace, we have a good combat organization, and we have the talent to extend and raise the country's combat capacity to a level worthy of this revolutionary nation and appropriate for our enemies. [crowd chants support]

Some of the brothers are saying: Islamic combatants, thank you, thank you. Some are saying: Trench builders of Islam. The two are the same. The trench builder is also a combatant, and the combatant is in reality building a defensive barrier. Well done. It is really fitting for us to express gratitude. I will say something at the end of my remarks about your thanks; I have made a note of this, and I will tell you.

Well, now, with our defensive force and with our efforts throughout the 8 years, I want to make a brief assessment of the 8-year war, although I devoted the second sermon in a previous week to such an assessment, and last week too our dear brother, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, devoted good and adequate remarks to that matter. Nevertheless, no matter how many times the subject is told and retold, it will not be too much.

The concept I have of the 8-year war is a very clear. For 8 years all apparatuses [dastgah-ha] made efforts to displace the Islamic Republic from its rightful position and to weaken or overthrow this system. They could not even with the great intensity of force that was applied to the Islamic Republic.

In our ordinary lives it has often happened—many of you may have witnessed such a thing—that a group, a bully, or a cruel person, in the old days a khan in a village, for example, would decide to take something from someone, to take someone's house away, for instance, to take someone's farm. It often happened and many times they were able to do it. [passage omitted] Sometimes it would happen that that bully, that rich person, that possessor of strength and power, that possessor of everything, could not dislodge the owner from his farm, for example, no matter how hard he tried, no matter how much money he spent, no matter how much pressure he exerted for 2, 3, or 5 years. [passage omitted] No matter how hard he tried, he could not dislodge that man.

Now, who is the man? The person in question is an ordinary person but someone who resists and who does not succumb to bullying. Well, what is the general verdict in this regard? The general verdict is that that person, if he endured a beating, a severe beating, if they really made him suffer, beat him a great deal and exerted a great deal of pressure but could not dislodge him from his position by one bit, then he was victorious. This applies exactly to the Islamic Republic today.

All apparatuses fell on the Islamic Republic: The East, the West, the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, reaction, military force, various kinds of deadly equipment and deadly weapons, great amounts of money, great amounts of propaganda, persistent political maneuvers and games. In brief, the world of arrogance, the world of oppression, and the world of injustice united and fell on the Islamic Republic to destroy it, dislodge it, move it from its position, and set it aside. For 8 years they did everything in their power; they sweated and tried and, of course, they beat it a great deal.

Now after 8 years, when the dust has settled, the attackers, tired, exhausted and shattered, have fallen in various corners. When they look, they see that the Islamic Republic, with full strength, is standing exactly where it was. It is standing strongly and steadily in its place, and during these few years it has become many times stronger, more determined, and more stable than before. [crowd chants: "God is Great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "Death to Israel," and "Death to America"]

Today the East and West look and see that the Islamic Republic, which they have treated in that way for 8 years, is stronger than ever; its people are more united; its government is more stable; the leadership is more in control of the country's affairs. The many experiences and lessons of the period are lasting. In brief, our enemies have been completely defeated and the Islamic Republic is completely victorious in the 8-year war. The war aimed to dislodge the Islamic Republic. They could not do it after all that effort. So you see, in these 8 years, we proved by our resistance that we can last and that, despite the powers, we will last and we have lasted, in these 8 years.

In the future our slogan will be the same. Do not forget. The Iranian nation must not forget. Enmity against the Islamic Republic has not ended. As long as there is Islam and as long as it is revolutionary Islam, Islam that is opposed to arrogance, opposed to the destruction of nations and supporting the independence of nations; as long as such an Islam exists which attracts all Islamic nations, even all other nations, we will have enemies in the

world. Those enemies have no aim other than to destroy the Islamic Republic or to make it deviate from its path, so that in any case it does not remain as it is, what it is now. [passage omitted] Our slogan from now on before all demonstrations of power and arrogance is that we will last despite arrogance, and we will daily become stronger and more stable. [crowd chants support]

Well, please. Time has passed. I apologize. I still have not raised the issue of reconstruction that I wanted to raise. Please allow me to continue and do not chant any more slogans until the end of the reconstruction discussion. Let us quickly finish the discussion, because the weather is hot and some people are out in the sun.

The next issue is that of reconstruction. Reconstruction is an important issue. When you see everyone talking about reconstruction, that is fitting, and there is still a lot more we have to say about reconstruction. We must talk a great deal about it. More than what we say to the people, we must work among ourselves, study, draft programs, make decisions, bring viewpoints closer to one another, act and begin. It is a very important issue.

We have two reconstructions, brothers. One reconstruction is the post-war reconstruction. Eight years of war have obviously caused damage, and we must reconstruct. Cities have been destroyed. Roads have been destroyed. Many factories have been destroyed. Many of the country's main and basic facilities such as jetties, ports, and so forth have been destroyed. The war's destruction is great. All that must be repaired and reconstructed. That is one reconstruction.

The other reconstruction, which is even more important, is that of the corruptions and degenerations of the period of oppression. We still have not reconstructed those things. The Pahlavi government and the period of oppression, the previous cruel and oppressive regime, caused a great deal of ruin in this country. Of course, in the 10 years since the victory of the revolution a great deal has been done. [passage omitted]

Of course, I see that reconstruction has engaged everyone's minds and that there are different viewpoints. When I was there, I was seeing reports and receiving news regularly, I was in touch with what we were doing, and I had the opportunity also to look from afar at some of the newspaper reports and the viewpoints of some of those dear and good brothers who are sincere and who write in newspapers. The contradictory viewpoints of these newspapers is a vast (?case). This is among the good deeds derived from the Islamic Republic. One of the blessings of the Islamic Republic is this: that everyone can express their viewpoints.

Well, in the newspapers issued in these last few days, we read in one the suggestion that we should do this and that in reconstructing the country, in the tasks to be done in the future for the country, and that we should even not reject the United States. Now, right from the start it mentioned the United States, suggesting that we change our relations with the United States, in this or that way. This is one viewpoint, one side of the matter. And this was published in one of our newspaper here. Another is the opposite viewpoint: loud shouts and warnings that we should not let foreigners enter this country, that we should not allow any engineers, any investment, any money, enter.

Everything should be built by the Iranians themselves. So, here is the opposite viewpoint. Either that we should have completely open doors, even for the United States, or that we should be locking and closing doors even to those who are now in our country. There are some foreigners here who are working. This is nothing new.

These are thoughts based on emotions and not on information and intellect. I am not, of course, criticizing. Let those who have written these things in newspapers write again. That is not a problem. But people should know that these are the viewpoints of newspaper editorials, personal viewpoints. The problems of reconstruction are not such to enable us to effectively fulfill the emotions of such and such a writer or speaker in this or that place.

The issue in question is the country's future. This is no joke. Ten years have passed since the revolution, and these are the first days that there is the Islamic Republic in the country but no war. We have never had days like these in the country. Now that we want to start, in the name of God, the compassionate, to reconstruct the country, to provide welfare for the deprived strata, to eliminate illiteracy, to establish social justice, to eliminate poverty, to reconstruct the rural regions, to revive the national economy, and to do the thousands of things that have to be done, now someone says something from this side, another says something else from the other side.

Well, let them say what they have to say, but they should not believe that the officials owe them something. They should not hold the officials responsible and expect them to say yes to whatever they suggest. One gentleman says: Let no one enter the country. This is that same Molotov cocktail mentality, fighting with Molotov cocktails. There were some people who at the start of war were saying: Look here, why do we need weapons? There's no need for weapons. Go and make some Molotov cocktails, those bottles in which we used to put oil and gasoline during the early days of the movement's escalation and which were thrown from roof-tops over the heads of, for instance, the shah's police.

They were saying: Make these things and fight with Iraq. Well, this is a sincere and honest way of thinking, but it is also childish and elementary. At first, maybe these thoughts do pass through one's mind. But after 8 years of war one realizes: No, sir, armored war needs armor and defensive weapons, air warfare needs aircraft and air defenses. There is no question about it; otherwise, even if you were to dispatch 10,000 people with Molotov

cocktails to the theater of war they could be eliminated by 10 tanks, or by several machineguns. They could be destroyed with several machineguns or several bombs. One cannot fight without having facilities and resources. Even our devoted, sincere, enthusiastic mobilization forces, Guards Corps, and keen children have now reached these conclusions, these realities. There is no room for doubt.

Now regarding national reconstruction, they are chanting slogans: You should not deploy foreign knowledge, expertise, and experience. Aren't we using these in the country right now? There are projects right now on which foreigners are working in this country. If at a point they say that foreign investment should be made in this country, well, yes, the Constitution has forbidden this. The Constitution has forbidden those things, the interference of foreigners in this country, the things that can be criticized and can cause difficulties, no one touches this and no one dares to. [sentence as heard]

I, who am the president, am constantly watching that the Constitution is observed, and I will prevent anyone who violates it by one step. Can anyone open the door and let someone enter the country in contravention of the Constitution? Our discussion has nothing to do with this.

But, please wait, wait, there is no need for chanting praise to God. I have frequently requested that you should not chant praises but (?it is no use). Thus national reconstruction is associated with a principle, and we will say what this is. Just as our dear brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani said last week—I approve 100 percent what he said; it is right what he said—you should set aside the extremes of excess, abstinence, emotionalism, and worthless things.

The slogan runs: Everything will be built by Iranians. Of course it will be like this. Everything should be built by Iranians, but when? When the Iranians have acquired the knowledge from the foreigners. In the war we paid double and triple the price for much of the war materiel we bought from foreigners. Well, just as we could not provide in that area, so in other areas too, in the national reconstruction, we must make use of the knowledge, expertise, and resources of that foreigner. Of course, a friendly foreigner.

The enemy foreigner will break his ankle if he wants to come here. But the one who is a friend, the one we chose to be the right foreigner, well, let him come and work here. What is wrong with that? Right now too there are foreigners from various countries who are working on petrochemicals, the Mobarakeh steel, the oil pipeline from one place to another, jetties—I don't know—power plants, steel, iron-ore plants. In all these plants, there are a number of foreigners from somewhere who are working. [passage omitted]

The experts of society, the high-ranking expert civil servants of our country—what Hashemi-Rafsanjani said is right—these and also the Plan and Budget Ministry and the Majlis plan and Budget Committee have discussed things with us. It has been decided that they should present their plan and that national reconstruction will be carried out with the help of all the people. All the people should help, and government departments should make use of all the manpower available as far as possible so that this reconstruction can be carried out.

I will now recount those points which should be observed as the basis for reconstruction. The people, officials, and the press should know that these bases should not be violated. There are five points regarding reconstruction.

The first is large-scale planning and determining the priorities. There can be no reconstruction without planning. Each person would do something separately and there would be no communication between different sections. [passage omitted] Plans should be approved by the heads of the country, that is, the heads of the three powers. There are some cases which must be approved by the imam himself. There might be some cases which need permission from the imam of the ummah himself. That was the first point: It cannot be done without planning.

The second point is maintaining economic and cultural independence. Reconstruction opens the way for foreign economic and cultural domination in many spheres. As I have just said, in accordance with the Constitution, foreign investments in the country cannot be made without Majlis approval. We are very careful about this. As the guardian of the Constitution, the president, we allow no one to commit any violations. The country's economic independence must be preserved. The country must not have foreign debts. Different parts of the country should not be in the hands of different companies or governments. [passage omitted]

The third point is the maximum utilization of national resources, that is the people's initiative and capital. Our people are intelligent; they have initiative. When we say that we should use others' expertise and knowledge, it does not mean that our people are incapable, not in the least. [passage omitted]

Those who have money should come and invest their capital in national reconstruction. They should be given the chance. If jobs are created for people, capital should be invested in production. We must arrange for this. It cannot be done without it. If the government were to invest and certain people were to invest their money on the black market, in ill-advised buying and selling and so forth, the country's liquidity [as heard] and inflation would go up and up, and an unhealthy economic situation would develop. [passage omitted]

We must place agricultural and industrial facilities at the disposal of these investors, of course, with government planning, guidance, and supervision. [passage omitted]

Government and people's facilities, capital, and ideas should all be utilized. The 20 years to which the Imam referred on his arrival really starts now. Of course, if they let us. On his arrival the imam said: If all the people work together for 20 years, they will make something of Iran. The 20 years start now. They did not let us for 10 years, although there was much to do, thank God. But they did not let us do what we had to do. [passage omitted]

The fourth point is that we should try to place the comfort of the weak classes at the top of our list of priorities, because there is pressure on that class. How can one alleviate the burden of life and hardship for the weak classes? Not with slogans. Some people think that by shouting slogans such as: "The Oppressed, The Oppressed," their bellies will be filled and they will get fat. No, slogans do nothing. We must act. We could solve the problems of the oppressed by increasing the national product, creating jobs, and making the economy flourish.

When production is increased, inflation falls. Inflation is caused by the shortage of goods in society. That is why the value of the currency drops. Who loses out when the value of currency drops? That person, that clerk who earns 3,000 or 4,000 tumans a month, or that laborer who earns 100 or 150 tumans a day. That wealthy merchant, that person who has an income [as heard], or that middleman are unaffected. If meat is 500 tumans a kilogram, he will buy it wherever he can. [passage omitted]

The fifth point is that we should avoid bureaucracy. This is an important point. We must not create a new system for reconstruction. No, the government departments should do the reconstruction. Each ministry is in charge of a section of the reconstruction. [passage omitted] If we were to create new organizations for reconstruction, a parallel bureaucratic system would put pressure on the public, large amounts of money would be spent, and government departments would remain rusty and do nothing. We should try to alleviate the pressure of bureaucracy as much as possible and make government departments work.

There is one other point which I insist on making at the end of my speech. That is the moral and ethical reconstruction in society. This is the most urgent task of all. Brothers and sisters, as we said, for 8 years the enemy poured itself, its facilities, equipment, and troops on the Islamic Republic to dislodge it, but it could not do this. Who made the Islamic Republic immovable? We must not forget this. Who made this tent firm in the wind and the storm? Who showed the power of the Islamic Republic to the enemy? Who? The combatants, the wounded, the POW's, the martyrs who fought and went to God. Our nation must honor and value them, not only in word but in deed. [passage omitted]

As an Iranian, a Muslim, an official, a president, I deem it my responsibility constantly to consider myself indebted to each and every one of the combatants, the wounded, the martyrs, the POW's, and families of martyrs. Every Iranian should feel the same. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Interviewed on Geneva Talks

LD2708112188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] During an interview granted to reporters this morning, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, referring to his recent inspection of the battlefronts, reiterated that the combatants of Islam are fully prepared to defend the country's borders against any possible threat. He also evaluated the latest developments and trend of the Geneva peace talks. With regard to Iraq's intention to undermine the secretary general's role in the Geneva talks he said: The existing evidence indicates that Iraq is weakening the secretary general's role and the role of the resolution, which is the axis of the Iran-Iraq talks. Of course, we shall not accept this matter at all; the criterion for our acceptance is the resolution. The secretary general is a referee [hakam], under whose auspices the resolution should be implemented article by article.

With regard to the possibility of the talks dragging on for a long time, Mr Khamene'i said: Should the Iraqi regime continue behaving as it has behaved up to now, the talks might go on for years and might never conclude. But if the two sides were to act with sincerity, frankness, and seriousness, all would be solved. There is no ambiguous point and everything is clear.

About the method of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the UN observer forces, the president said: Our cooperation with the secretary general was praised and endorsed from the beginning by all those who were aware of the course of events; after accepting the resolution, we entered the arena sincerely.

The president added: We fully cooperated with the secretary general and did not allow affairs to encounter any difficulty on our side. Naturally, the peace- keeping forces are the guests of our country, and necessary recommendations have been communicated to everyone on the front line and behind the front lines by the authorities and the Foreign Ministry, so that the UN forces enjoy the necessary facilities to properly implement their mission.

Further on Interview

LD2708192388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Interview given by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in Tehran on 27 August to unidentified reporters—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] The Iran-Iraq peace talks, currently in progress between the two countries' foreign ministers under the auspices of the UN secretary general

in Geneva, are the most significant issue being reported by the news agencies and mass media of the world. Therefore, we have come to see the honorable president, Mr Khamene'i, to ask him some questions on this issue. Mr Khamene'i, in view of your relatively long visit to and inspections of the battlefronts, could you please tell us of the combat readiness of our warriors?

[Khamene'i] Concerning the combat readiness of our armed forces, I presented quite a detailed report to the nation during yesterday's Friday prayers sermons. I must briefly say that, thanks be to God, their readiness is good. That is, first, the mobilization forces are at the front in large numbers and also in high readiness. As I observed, they enjoy very high morale and are strongly motivated. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Could you please explain, in light of the reports reaching Your Excellency, the developments and the trend at the Geneva talks?

[Khamene'i] Concerning the Geneva talks, the general news is the same as announced by the mass media. They have had several rounds of talks, and the two sides have made their demands. The point I would like to mention is this: The beginning of talks has not gone as we had hoped, which could be interesting to the true supporters of a lasting peace. I must say that we are not very happy with the progress made up to now. One point should be noted: The two sides which today face each other at the talks have many excuses for not cooperating with each other, for the two delegations represent the governments and armed forces which have confronted and fought each other for 8 years.

If we really desire these talks, held under the auspices of the UN secretary general, to really yield a real, lasting peace, it will be necessary for both sides, both delegations, to be frank and sincere about peace. If it appears that excuses are being made, we can be certain that the talks will be very slow, and they may be a total failure. This is exactly how we have observed the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi delegation behaving. That is, the Iraqi delegation has not had a totally frank approach to peace and the implementation of Resolution 598.

For instance, the first issue which should have been raised and implemented was the withdrawal of forces; but as of today we have seen that not only have the forces not been withdrawn, but no serious talks have been held in this connection either. Why? The withdrawal of forces should not have been delayed at all. It must be implemented immediately.

Another problem is the fact that in connection with the border dispute and withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders, the criterion and focus is the Algerian Agreement. This agreement must be implemented fully. Part of this agreement concerns the land borders, and another part concerns the Arvand river. These two points must be implemented at once, and there should be no dispute over the content of the agreement. And since this is the most recent treaty between Iran and Iraq—that is, the latest border agreement which maintains its credibility and remains in force—it is the only treaty which can be implemented. There might have been other border agreements between Iran and Iraq in the past, but the new agreement replaces and abrogates the previous agreements. None of the earier agreements is valid now; we do not consider any of them to be valid any longer.

The only valid agreement is the Algers Agreement. Therefore, this agreement should be accepted and adhered to frankly and sincerely by both sides; all the agreement's articles should be implemented. One of the articles of this agreement, for instance, is the dredging of the Arvand River. The point raised by the Iraqis claiming that the dredging is a separate issue is totally unacceptable to us. In connection with the border treaties, other treaties preceding the Algerian agreement, as I mentioned, are unacceptable under any circumstances.

It is totally illogical to raise the wrong issues. The fact that the Iraqi delegation has raised such issues demonstrates that the Iraqi Government is not serious, and maybe, that they intend to win concessions. But the Iraqis should have come to understand well during the past 8 years that the nation of Iran will not surrender to blackmail by anyone. Neither Iraq nor any bigger party has been able to blackmail the Iranian nation, nor will they be able to. They must approach the question of peace and the peace negotiations with sincerity if their claims of peaceful intentions are truthful.

The important point to bear in mind here is that the negotiations should proceed in line with Resolution 598, which has several authoritative paragraphs. Naturally some of these provisions necessarily precede others, such as the cease-fire. The implementation of the resolution also requires a practical procedure; the UN secretary general proposed such a plan and we agreed to it. This plan must be observed. We see that the Iraqi Government is not taking a serious approach to the resolution and the secretary general's plan for its implementation.

It is my belief that the secretary general must act more forcefully and more authoritatively; that is, at the sessions, he must have the delegations deal only with the matter that has been referred to them—Resolution 598, as we agreed—and nothing else. That resolution was accepted by the Islamic Republic. A plan for its implementation was needed; the secretary general proposed a plan, which we agreed to. Therefore, the secretary general must pay more attention to following the provisions of the resolution in the proper sequence.

Among the matters that must receive attention and immediate.... [Khamene'i changes thought] The proposal of the secretary general stipulates the establishment of a commission to specify the aggressor. We cannot ignore this point. It is one of the paragraphs of the resolution which definitely must receive attention and

must be pursued. The commission was to have been established simultaneously with the cease-fire; the secretary general's proposal stipulated the establishment of the commission to identify the instigator of the war and the aggressor on the day the cease-fire went into effect. But this commission has not yet been established, and there has been no mention of it. Why? We must be told the reasons for its delay.

All in all, our real message is that sincerity, effort, truthfulness are required for the negotiations. And those things will be possible only if the raising of fringe issues and attempts to score political points are strongly resisted. The Iraqi regime must not try to score points. The resolution must be made the criterion and the focal point of the work. Naturally, the resolution can be realized in conjunction with the secretary general's implementation plan, which we have accepted. Otherwise, we are not prepared to accept the bullying, point scorings, and blackmail from anyone else. Iraq must abandon the hope of using such methods to score points against us.

[Reporter] The Iraqi regime is trying to reduce the role of the UN secretary general to a minimum and to weaken him. What is your opinion of this?

[Khamene'i] It is as you say. The evidence suggests that Iraq wants to minimize the role of the Secretary General and possibly even the role of the resolution—exactly that which is the keystone of the Iran-Iraq negotiations. Of course, we will not accept such a thing under any circumstances. As I said, the criterion and keystone of the work is the resolution; and also the secretary general is the person, the referee under whose supervision the resolution must be implemented clause by clause.

[Reporter] Your Eminence, Mr Khamene'i, what is your opinion on the point raised by the secretary general on it being possible that the peace talks may continue for years?

[Khamene'i] If the Iraqi regime wants to continue behaving as it has behaved thus far, yes, it may take years. They may even never be realized—the clauses of the resolution, that is. If they want to make excuses, everything will, in fact, come into question. However, if that is not the case, and if the parties involved act with truthfulness, sincerity and seriousness, just as I said, everything can be resolved much more quickly than in that period of time. Everything can be solved, finished, because we do not have any ambiguous points. The frontiers are clear. The matter of the Arvand River is clear. The committee to designate the aggressor must be formed.

The exchange of POW's is very practicable, simple. The parties can easily reach agreement in this connection. There are no issues on which we think aggreement cannot be reached on the basis of the resolution, unless the opposite side wants to make excuses, create problems. In that case, yes. We said that it will take a very long time.

[Reporter] My last question is: In what way will Iran cooperate with the peace-keeping forces and also with the secretary general?

[Khamene'i] Our cooperation with the secretary general has been praised from the start by all those who are informed about events. When we had accepted the resolution, we did so with sincerity. In other words, we undertook to cooperate fully with the secretary general and we did not allow problems to arise on our side. The same thing applies to the peace-keeping forces. Naturally, they are guests of the Islamic Republic; the necessary guidelines have been given by the Foreign Ministry and other officials to all the brothers at the fronts and behind the fronts to look after those gentlemen. Efforts will be made to provide facilities for them so that they can perform their duties well.

Criticizes Iraqi Stance

LD2708154688 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 27 Aug 88

["Khamene'i Calls on Iraqi Govt. To Show Sincerity at Geneva Talks"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today said the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva has not been satisfactory to peace-lovers and warned, if the Iraqi regime continues making lame excuses U.N. Resolution 598 might never be materialized.

Khamene'i, saying the start of the Geneva peace talks could have been more satisfactory to those favoring a lasting peace than it is now noted "we are not much pleased with the progress of the negotiations."

Both delegations to the Geneva peace talks, which are representing the two countries involved in an almost 8-year- old war, should be sincere and serious so that negotiations held under the chairmanship of the U.N. chief could bear fruits, Khamene'i said.

The president cautioned that making excuses by one side might slow down or endanger the trend of the peace talks. This is evident in the behaviour of the delegation and Government of Iraq, he noted.

The approach of the Iraqi delegation to Security Council 598 has not been sincere, said Khamene'i, adding that withdrawal of troops to the internationally-recognized border should have been the first issue to be brought up and implemented at Geneva.

The 1975 accord between Iran and Iraq should be fully carried out as far as the pull-out of troops behind the internationally-recognized border is concerned, the president stressed.

A section of the 1975 accord concerns the Iran-Iraq land border while other articles deal with the Arvand River, the middle of which forms the two countries' southernmost border, Khamene'i said, noting that all the accord's articles should be dealt with equally because it is the last agreement signed between the two countries and is therefore valid.

Further on the same subject, Khamene'i said that it is not logical for Baghdad to speak of pre-1975 border agreements with Iran because the 1975 accord automatically annuled the previous ones. Raising of such issues by the Baghdad regime indicates it is not serious, he added.

President Khamene'i who also chairs the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), warned Baghdad against seeking any concessions and noted the Iraqi regime must have realized by now that Iranian people never submit to blackmail.

Adverting to the Geneva peace talks, Khamene'i said they should be centred on U.N. Resolution 598 whose articles are all valid although some of them, he said should precede the others, for example, the article relevant to ceasefire.

Khamene'i, saying the enforcement of Security Council Resolution 598 needs comprehensive practical steps, reiterated Iran's approval of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan.

He said Iraq's approach to both resolution 598 and the U.N. chief's implementation plan is not serious and called on Perez de Cuellar to tackle the issue more severely.

The president also questioned why the committee responsible for identifying the aggressor party in the Iraqi-imposed war has not yet been set up although it was supposed to be formed as soon as ceasefire went into effect on August 20.

On Baghdad's attempts to undermine the role of the U.N. secretary-general in the peace talks, Khamene'i said there is evidence the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq is trying to minimize Perez de Cuellar's role and that of Security Council Resolution 598.

"Of course," Khamene'i made it clear, "this is not acceptable to us. Our criterion is the resolution and we consider the U.N. chief as an arbitrator under whose supervision the resolution should be entirely implemented."

President Khamene'i, commenting on the U.N. chief's statement that peace talks might last for years, said if the Iraqi regime maintains its current obstinacy the Geneva peace talks might either last for years or fail. On the contrary if both sides act seriously, sincerely and honestly they will reach an agreement very soon, he said.

On cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), Khamene'i said Iran's sincere cooperation with the U.N. secretary-general has always been upheld and praised by every one involved in the peace process.

Elsewhere in his interview, Khamene'i termed as being 'high' the spirit and combat prowess of the Iranian Armed Forces including the Army, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and volunteer forces.

The Armed Forces have maintained their combat prowess as a precautionary measure although they and other officials of the Islamic Republic have taken the acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 and ceasefire seriously, concluded the president.

Lebanese Paper Says IGRC Leaders 'Deposed'

NC2608124688 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
22 Aug 88 p 12

[Unattributed article: "What Is Happening in Iran?"]

[Text] This is a question which observers are currently asking in light of the developments which followed Tehran's recent announcement of its accepting of Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The question under discussion concerns the fate of numerous forces and currents which until lately were among those holding sway inside Iran. The decision to halt the war completely isolated them politically and gave ascendancy to their rivals. Imam Khomeyni himself paved the way for this by appointing Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The step was taken at the expense of the IRGC.

Despite the extreme secrecy imposed on reports from Tehran concerning the course of the internal conflicts, it has been learned that IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezai'e have been deposed. Contrary to reports that Rezai'e is is under detention, it has been confirmed that residence and travel restrictions have been imposed on Rezai'e and Rafiqdust. Meanwhile, an IRGC official, who is an Arab from Khuzestan, has been appointed as IRGC commander.

All this has had its repercussions. It has been learned that Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the target of an assassination attempt in an ambush laid for him while he was on his way to the Majlis a few days ago. The perpetrators, which the report described as being linked to the former IRGC

command, have been arrested. While this report pointed out that making an assassination attempt against Hashemi-Rafsanjani is nothing new—indeed, he holds the record among leading international personalities for the number of times he has been subjected to such attempts—the report noted that there was a new slant to this attempt. It is believed that the perpetrators in this case belonged to the Islamic trend and had been Hashemi-Rafsanjani's allies until the eve of the announcement pertaining to ending of the war.

What is important in the same report is that Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i is currently away from Tehran. He left the capital for the front some time ago in protest at the changes that are taking place there. The same report cites sources close to Khamene'i as declaring, when asked why he had left Tehran: "If someone asks me what is happening in Tehran, I do not want to tell him that I do not know."

In light of the foregoing, the internal situation in Iran appears pregnant with numerous possibilities, most of which had hitherto been vague. Because conflict in Iran is currently at its height, this inevitably means that results will soon surface, particularly as all reports from the Iraq-Iran front state that complete calm prevails there.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Said Injured by Plotters
LD2808164788 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Hashemi-Rafsanjani has escaped two assassanation plots following his role in the acceptance of peace. According to a report from Tehran, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who supports the continuation of the war, ordered Hashemi-Rafsanjani's assassination.

The plot was carried out by the guards under the control of the interior minister. It is said that the assassination plot was masterminded by Seyyed Mahmud Mir-Lohi, who is in charge of intelligence and the Islamic revolution's committees. In the attempt, six of the guards were killed but Hashemi-Rafsanjani was only injured in the eye. [passage omitted]

IRNA Comments on Iraqi Buildup to War
LD2708082988 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 27 Aug 88

["War Commentary: UN Security Council Now Taking Acid Test. Will It Identify Aggressor?"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—The Iraqi-imposed war was among a chain of conspiracies for destroying the Islamic revolution in Iran. The superpowers picked up Saddam Husayn as the best element for confrontation with the Islamic Iran. The war was sponsored by the global arrogance to topple the Islamic Government in Iran.

Two months before the all-out Iraqi attacks against Iran Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim in response to a question by Lebanese reporters said the Iraq-Iran dispute would intensify and that Iraq would continue its efforts to overthrow the Islamic Government.

Although the war started by Iraq on 22 September, but plans for the encounter were made at the beginning of the victory of the Islamic revolution in February 1979. Long before its actual invasion of Iran the Iraqi military sporadically pounded sites, bases and border outposts and towns in Iran.

Before the outbreak of the war on 22 September, Iraqi regime had attacked Iran 798 times, that is 563 times by land, 211 times by air and 24 times by sea. The Baghdad regime actually attacked Iran once every day before its full invasion of Iran on 22 September, 1980.

The Iraqi regime attacked Iran at least three times each day from 22 March 1980 with its warplanes reconnoitering targets, breaking the sound barrier and bombing residential, economic and industrial sites in Iran, or daily attacking Iranin border bases, outposts and towns.

Iranian cities and towns like Khorramshahr, Abadan, Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, Mehran, Dehloran, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Khosravi, Ilam, Paveh, Salehabad, Musian, Dezful, Bostan, Shush, Susangerd, Nowzad, Marivan and Sar Dasht were subjected to Iraqi attacks several times before the outbreak of Iraq's full scale war with Iran, during which scores of Iranian civilians including women and children were martyred or wounded.

The aggressions were made simultaneous with other plots such as provoking and arming Iranian counter-revolutionaries, blasting Iranian oil pipes in western and southern parts of the country, planting bombs in border towns, sabotaging on border roads and kidnapping civilians in border areas.

All documented evidence attest to the fact that the war against Iran was designed shortly after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, and that the Baghdad regime thought of a quick victory and the downfall of the Islamic Republic, though the vigilant Iranian nation eventually foiled the plots against their nation and a war initially designed to last only eight days dragged on—with absolutely no benefit to its initiator—for eight years. The eight years of Iranian resistance gave a lesson to all aggressors as well as to the oppressed masses of the world.

Now that the ceasefire is effected the United Nations and the Security Council are responsible to the world for identifying the aggressor party in name and for ending their evasive encounter with the issue.

UN Stance on Chemical Weapons 'Ineffective'

LD2708144188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1118 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Station commentary: "The Repeated Use of Chemical Weapons by the Iraqi Regime and the Profound Concern Expressed at the Danger of the Future Use of These Weapons"]

[Text] Following the release of the UN report last Tuesday, in which Iraq was reproached for the use of mustard gas against Iranian civilians in the vicinity of the city of Oshnoviyeh, the UN Security Council [UNSC] yesterday condemned the use of chemical weapons in the Iraq-Iran war. It added: In the event these weapons are again deployed, this council will immediately study the adoption of appropriate and effective measures. Although, as was expected, the resolution does not directly reproach Iraq, its foreword states that the UNSC was shocked at the conclusions reached by the UN investigators on chemical weapons' being continuously used in the Persian Gulf war, and that they were used more intensely and repeatedly against Iranian civilians.

Despite world reaction to the repeated use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Iranian and civilian Iraqi Kurds, the UNSC resolution is content to limit itself to making a political gesture rather than implementing a decisive world response. The resolution also expresses profound concern with regard to the danger of the future deployment of chemical weapons.

The concern of the UNSC over the dangers of the future use of destructive and antihuman chemical weapons comes at a time when the world community, notably international chemical weapons experts, have, following the Iraqi regime's repeated use of these kinds of weapons, become more than ever convinced that the use of these weapons will increase from now on. This is at a time when, according to existing reports, UN chemical expert teams have confirmed that Iraq was repeatedly using mustard gas, and possibly nerve gas. This resolution, which is said to have received the support of some UNSC members, is the second resolution on the use of chemical weapons in less than 4 months.

Its main intention is to stop the use of these kinds of weapons in accordance with the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Before that, Resolution 612 concerning the deployment of banned chemical weapons was passed, under certain circumstances, by the UNSC. The international community watched with anxiety the extensive and repeated use of these kinds of weapons by the Iraqi regime against civilians, that is, against the Iraqi and Iranian nations. Thus, in the first clause of Resolution 612, the need for the immediate and decisive observation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical gases and weapons is emphasized.

In truth, these resolutions, which have been issued under present conditions and with political interests in mind in support of the Iraqi regime, lack the necessary effectiveness and impact to satisfy international public opinion.

It can be seen that the Iraqi regime is continuing to use chemical weapons against the Kurds in Iraq. This demonstrates that Resolution 612 and also the latest UNSC resolution have not been able to halt the deployment of chemical weapons: Their future use could endanger the world. This is a weak and political stance to adopt in response to world public opinion. Nations are frightened about the future dangers of the use of these kinds of weapons.

In reality, the Council's stress in yesterday's resolution on its adopting appropriate and effective measures in the event of the renewed use of these weapons—which could also be detected in the previous resolution, Resolution 612—has no practical dimension, and is limited only to words. The absence of decisiveness of international forums and also of the UNSC as the bodies responsible for maintaining international order and security, as included in the UN Charter, shows once again that in order to ban the use of chemical weapons, there is a definite need for a new convention, on the basis of which steps could be taken to ban the deployment of chemical weapons forever.

From another standpoint, the latest ineffective UNSC stance regarding the use of banned chemical weapons by Iraq, which could even encourage this regime to continue its crimes, has also prevented the council from resolving this issue at the international level. In another sense, the UNSC has left the nations of the world still apprehensive about the dangers of the future use of chemical weapons. It seemed that the UNSC was about to take some effective and practical steps to halt the deployment of chemical weapons on the basis of the Geneva Protocol, but not only has the (?horror) of the use of these kinds of weapons not been removed, but, according to UN chemical weapons experts, in the light of Iraq's extensive use of these weapons in its war with Iran, many more countries are now thinking of using these weapons.

This is exactly the same fear that derives from the danger of the future use of chemical weapons, yet the UNSC was unable to take the necessary advantage of the situation to attract the confidence of the world's nations toward international forums, even though the international community was ready to help in solving this huge problem.

UN Envoy Hails Resolution

LD2708180288 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—In view of the U.N. Security Council's feeble reaction in the past towards the Iraqi deployment of chemical arms, Resolution 620 passed unanimously by the council's members on Friday

seems to be a positive step which shows the inclination of the council to take more effective measures for preventing the use of such lethal weapons.

Announcing the above in an exclusive interview with IRNA here Saturday, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati said the Iraqi regime's use of chemicals against Iran includes both against military troops and defenceless civilians.

Resolution 620 comes on the heels of the August 19 report of the U.N. experts team which inspected the residential quarters of Oshnoviyeh (Azarbayjan Bakhtari Prov.) chemically bombed by the Iraqi regime on August 2.

The Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons on Oshnoviyeh which inflicted 2,300 casualties, occured just ten days after the Security Council passed Resolution 612, noted Mahallati adding that the crime which is recorded in the U.N. report is an obvious Iraqi violation of all international regulations.

Iraq's blatant mischief after the ratification of Resolution 612, denouncing the use of chemical arms, is not only a violation of the 1925 Geneva protocol but also a formal disrespect for the U.N. council's decision, he stressed.

Referring to Resolution 612, which admitted the intensified and repeated deployment of chemicals against Iranians although it failed to name Iraq, Mahallati said the Islamic Republic expects the council to explicitly condemn the Iraqi regime by name.

The Islamic Republic believes Resolution 620, which is the outcome of reports filed by teams despatched by U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, will only have some positive impact on the Geneva talks, and nothing else besides, he remarked.

According to the last papagraph of the resolution, the Security Council is bound to take measures to prevent the use of chemical arms, regardless of how and by whom such weapons have been deployed, said Mahallati. The Islamic Republic earnestly hopes the U.N. body will do so ignoring all political considerations, he added.

The U.N. has so far prepared seven formal reports on the deployment of chemical arms by Iraq. Most of the U.N. member countries believe that the use of chemicals has been the most horrible act in the course of the Iraqi imposed war.

Commentary Views Prospects for Geneva Talks
LD2708163888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Talks between Iran and Iraq are continuing under the supervision of the UN secretary general. In this stage of the talks, Iran and Iraq are trying to reach agreement on the timetable for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. The talks continue until the conclusion of a tripartite agreement.

In the meantime, the current talks in Geneva have turned into one of the most newsworthy events in the world; and world public opinion is eagerly following the developments in connection with Iraq's 8-year war against Iran.

Our country is taking part in the talks in circumstances which it announced in advance, with the goal of a lasting peace and hopes that the current talks will lead to a just and honorable peace in the region. In addition, the valuable criteria which exist for peace are:

Resolution 598, the secretary general's plan, and the 1975 [Algiers] Agreement between Iran and Iraq. In Resolution 598, which the secretary general describes as the rough draft for the resolution of the war, the withdrawal to borders, repatriation of POW's, the payment of war reparations, and the formation of a neutral committee to identify the initiator of the war have been foreseen. And on the basis of the secretary general's implementation plan, the attainment of those aims does not need to occur consecutively, that is, one after the other. Rather, it is possible for some of them to be achieved simultaneously.

With his current efforts, the secretary general has shown that he desires the resolution of the greatest number of issues in the least possible time and that he wants to avoid a prolongation of the talks and delays in the resolution of the above-mentioned issues. Perhaps it is because of this inclination of the secretary general that in the past 2 days, intense talks and contacts have taken place between the three parties. Despite that fact, bearing in mind possible obstruction on the part of Iraq, it cannot be stated precisely how long the Geneva tripartite negotiations may take.

Some believe that the talks may take months and others even pessimistically express the view that it is possible for them to go on for years. Until the true position of Iraq with regard to Resolution 598, the secretary general's implementation plan, and also the 1975 agreement between Iran and Iraq is clarified, no precise estimation can be made of the length of the talks or even on the resolution of the relevant issues.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's clear stance at the Geneva negotiations has given clear superiority to our country's diplomacy. At a time when Iran's foreign minister has announced our position to reporters, the Iraqi side has tried to remain quiet and not to say a word. In the course of the past 3 days, the Iraqis raised a few issues on just one occasion. That was upon their arrival in Geneva and was solely for propaganda purposes. In reality, it was just a repetition of that regime's slogans against Iran.

More specifically, the Iraqis are carrying on about lack of trust and their suspicion of Iran's intentions. They are accusing our country of bad intentions. However, Mr Velayati, by repeating Iran's unchanging and strong stance, has made it clear that our country is striving for the establishment of real peace and that it wants to put into force Resolution 598, the secretary general's implementation plan, and the 1975 Iran-Iraq agreement.

The result is that the Iraqi regime is revealing a weak position from the political point of view. On the other hand, the Iraqi regime—which is not very happy about the prospect of the implementation of Resolution 598, the secretary general's implementation plan, and the 1975 Iran- Iraq agreement—in the opinion of foreign commentators, has been determined thus far to reduce Perez de Cuellar's role to the minimum. Nor do they want the UN to act as referee; they are not even inclined toward that organization's mediation. They only welcome its role as organizer of meetings between two sides.

At any rate, any obstructionism on the part of Iraq can pose fundamental barriers for the path to lasting peace. Therefore, the vigilance of Iran's Muslim people can foil any possible conspiracy and make the enemy aware of the fact that they have no choice but to accept peace and respect the rights of the Muslim people of Iran.

Majlis Official Urges Improved Military Training
LD2808103088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 28 Aug 88

[From the "Sacred Defense" program, remarks by Montaja-nia, chairman of the Majlis Defense Committee—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Following the declaration of the cease-fire and acceptance of the resolution, the war issue does not come to an end completely. We will not forget the military matters and will not return to our normal life. [passage omitted]

From now on we must improve our training and military skills as well as our political and ideological views. Our nation, following 7 years and more, managed to equip its Armed Forces, but now they must prepare themselves further. Short- and long-term training courses should be held since during the course of the war there was only time for very short training courses in defensive and offensive operations. There is now time for us to improve training, and our military officers must plan and organize this task. They must restructure the forces and also the popular forces to become part of the combat structure so that we may be prepared for the near and distant future. [passage omitted]

You, dear brethren, must tighten your belts further to prepare yourselves with belief and determination for other threats that may be aimed at our country and revolution. These may be even bigger than the former one. Therefore, the primary point is that of maximum preparation in the military field. We must all be ready. As the beloved imam uttered in the early part of the war: An Islamic country should be a fully military one.

UK Diplomat Visits Imprisoned Businessman
LD2708152888 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1506 GMT 27 Aug 88

[By Jon Smith, PRESS ASSOCIATION lobby correspondent]

[Text] Envoy Mr David Reddaway today saw British businessman Mr Roger Cooper in jail in Iran.

It was the first full-scale visit by a British diplomat since Mr Cooper was jailed without charge in 1985 on suspicion of spying.

The Foreign Office said Mr Cooper, 52, from Devon, "was grateful for first hand information about his family".

Mr Reddaway reported that Mr Cooper was physically fit, despite his ordeal.

The visit was the latest sign of a thaw in relations between Britain and Iran. Mr Reddaway has been on a two- week trip, the first by a British diplomat since relations were soured more than a year ago, and is expected to fly home tomorrow.

He had already met the other Britain held in Iran, Mr Nicholas Nicola, 23, accused of firing a gun near the Pakistan border. The government hopes he could soon be released.

The Foreign Office said no news had been given on Mr Cooper's release, Britain has always insisted that he should be freed or properly charged and tried.

Government sources have repeatedly stressed the improvement in relations with Iran has no bearing on fate of the hostages held in the Lebanon.

But with pro-Iranian groups suspected of holding Church of England envoy Mr Terry Waite and TV journalist Mr John Mccarthy, it is widely thought improved relations with Iran can only help their cases.

Soviet Envoy Offers Help in Reconstruction
LD2708161988 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 27 Aug 88

["Soviet Union Looking Forward To Post-War Reconstruction in Iran"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Issues concerning holding of the 11th session of the permanent Tehran-Moscow economic cooperation commission were discussed in a meeting between Soviet ambassador Vladimir V. Gudev and Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani here Saturday.

Gudev announced the Soviet Union's readiness for active cooperation in post-war reconstruction and suggested a Soviet expert delegation would visit Iran which was accepted by Iravani.

Talks were also held on other issues of mutual concern including expansion of the Esfahan steel mills, bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil, gas, power plants and construction of dams over the border rivers.

The Iranian official said in response, the strategy for post-war development of the Islamic Republic is being prepared. He added that priority was given to oil and gas industries, establishment and promotion of power plants, steel and petrochemical industries. In general, he noted, special attention has been paid to mother industries.

Besharati, Libyan Envoy Discuss Expanding Ties
LD2708192188 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Multi-dimensional relations between Tehran and Tripoli during the Iraqi-imposed war as well as Libya's support for Iran reflect the two countries' sincerity, said the Libyan ambassador here today.

Mehdi Ambirashi made the remarks in a meeting with Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali-Muhammad Besharati, where he added that after Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, which Ambirashi termed as 'a bold and commendable move', further expansion of ties was felt.

Besharati in response said Iran gives priority to its relations with countries who supported her during wartime. Libya certainly tops the list of these countries, he added.

He also stressed expansion of Tehran-Tripoli ties and said after settlement of war difficulties, time would be ripe for taking measures in this regard.

Mojahedin Said To Purge 'Problematic' People
LD2808113888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMt 28 Aug 88

[Text] An informed source at the Ministry of Intelligence has announced: Following the disgraceful defeat of the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in Operation Mersad, the group embarked on an inter-organizational purge.

He added: According to [words Indistinct] documents seized, and remarks made by a number of hypocrites arrested in the operation or who surrendered in the face of a heavy defeat, the organization took the opportunity and killed its important, problematic personnel.

He stressed: Some high-ranking hypocrite personnnel who had differences of opinion with the leader of the organization, and who considered the recent joint Iraqi regime-hypocrites aggression fruitless, were killed on Rajavi's orders, because on their return they were considered a great threat to Rajavi and the group leading his organization.

The source stated: People who held very responsible positions in the past and who could be considered rivals to the leader of the hypocrites were among those killed during this bloody purge. Their names will be announced in the next few days.

He said: Following their political-military defeat in their cooperation with Iraq, the minigroup officially contacted the Lebanese Phalangists through Iraq and declared that if the Mojahedin received their support, they would provide them with their experience in espionage and intelligence to establish them in Lebanon.

He added: The hypocrites dispatched a number of their members to Lebanon to discuss and review the situation. But despite the Phalangists' general agreement, no formal reply has been received from the opposition side.

Pakistan

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Addresses Nation 26 Aug
BK2608174588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1521 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's 26 August address to the nation; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. Today, the night of 26 August, is the last night of national mourning for the late President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and other martyrs of the tragic accident on 17 August, and I thought it appropriate to say a few words to the nation on this occasion.

The setting sun on 17 August saw a bereaved Pakistani nation mourning the deaths of the late president and several of its other brave sons. Tomorrow, the rising sun of the morning of 27 August will see the Pakistani nation marching ahead with renewed determination and dedication, God willing. [passage omitted].

Tomorrow, 27 August, life will return to normal after 10 days. Islam is a natural religion, and it is the law of nature that the caravan of life moves on at all costs. The transitory nature of man does not and should not restrain the forward march of nations. After the death of certain persons, no matter how important they were and whatever lofty positions they held, it is essential for nations to get back on track and continue on in its specified direction as soon as possible according to the requirements of nature, and we must do the same thing. We must look forward instead of looking back. So long as the nation has not completed the permanent constitutional process, we must carry forward the unfinished agenda of national priorities during this transitional period.

As I told the nation in my first address, the formation of society along Islamic lines will remain out highest priority. We will make arrangements to provide easy, inexpensive, and speedy justice to the people by establishing an Islamic system of justice. We will also take active steps to further strengthen the country's security and to improve the economy and the law and order situation. We will continue to strive for a final solution of the Afghanistan problem under the Geneva accords, and we will continue to fulfill our obligation, as far as possible, of looking after the Afghan refugees until an atmosphere is created in Afghanistan under which they can return to their homes with honor and dignity.

We will also continue to strive to establish friendly relations with our neighbors and to promote peace and security in the world. I need your cooperation in carrying out this unfinished agenda. In this context, the media will have an effective role to play by helping to establish an atmosphere of public opinion conducive to successfully fulfilling this agenda. It is the law of God that nations must undergo trials on certain occasions, but a vital nation becomes neither disappointed nor weakened by trials. Yesterday, Pakistan was a strong nation and, praise be to God, it is strong today and will remain so in future.

Dear countrymen. In order to prove to the world the firmness of our determination, the loftiness of our intentions, and the strength of our power, it is essential to replace the atmosphere of mourning with an atmosphere of new spirits and once again actively engage ourselves in the struggle to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state, a move in keeping with the wishes and aspirations of our people.

We must accelerate our pace to achieve the objectives of the Pakistan Movement and our democratic goals united, by ignoring our differences, and with utmost sincerity and zeal. We must bury our mutual hatred. Mutual love and affection, sincerity and trust, and unity and brotherliness are needed today for the sake of the country's survival, more than ever before. The enemies will try to make us forget our responsibilities to the country.

You have seen how our enemies, frustrated by the discipline, courage, and integrity displayed by the nation after the 17th August tragedy, resorted to rumor mongering. They want to see our ranks disintegrate. They want to see us begin to doubt the each other's motives and to see the poison of suspicion and mistrust spread among us. We thank the Almighty that our enemies once again failed in their unholy designs. They might again try to do some mischief. However, they should know that Pakistan is the name of a wide-awake and alert nation that knows how to crush every conspiracy of its enemies.

I would like to make the media, particularly the national press, aware of their responsibilities. The situation demands moderation and caution. The media should not be used as a source of spreading rumors and it should refrain from baseless speculation. Foreign media reports should not be accepted at face value. Rather, an objective analysis of the elements and objectives behind these reports should be made and a correct and responsible picture of the situation should be presented. So far as the government is concerned, I assure you that anything that is not contrary to the interests of the country will never be concealed from the people and they will be taken into confidence on every issue.

What nations are free from difficulties? However, by the grace of God, we have the capability and the spirit to resolve our problems. We have the determination and courage to overcome our difficulties as well. We also enjoy the confidence of our people and the support of our friends. We have a constitution and we have full faith in democracy as well, which does not allow us to deviate at all from the path of the constitution.

Our faith in the constitutional system after the restoration of democracy in 1985 has not been limited to verbal claims alone. You have noticed how the transition following the tragedy of 17 August was made in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution without any delay, any arguments and in a very smooth manner. In this context I enjoyed the full cooperation of all individuals and organizations—God willing it will remain so—who were helpful in accelerating the process of democracy while remaining within the limits as prescribed by the Constitution.

Although our history of following the conventional path has not been something we can take pride in, the world has seen that the supremacy of the constitution now has risen above any doubts and misgivings, and God willing, we will remain so. We have to move forward to our goals as required by the constitution. Difference of opinion is the core of human society and the soul of democracy. Difference of opinion is not of itself important. What is needed is that if the differences are political, they should be resolved through political and democratic processes, and if they are sectarian or group differences, they should be removed through mutual understanding and tolerance. We should strive to do that.

I would like to reaffirm the government's determination that elections, God willing, will be conducted as scheduled in a free, impartial, and peaceful manner. Elections will held according to the constitution and the law, and I believe that the nation will accept the outcome of the elections with an open heart. Even at the point of transfering power after the elections, there will be no deviation from the constitution and the democratic traditions. At all these difficult stages of the journey toward democracy, I will need full cooperation of the people and the political leaders, and I am confident that I will not only receive your blessings but also your active cooperation.

Here, I would also like to make it clear that there is no ambiguity about the jurisdiction and the official duties of the various organs of the state, the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary. Nor do I intend to assign a person's duty to another. In this context, also, we will fully abide by the constitution.

My brothers and sisters, I know that the burden of the responsibility reposed on me is very heavy and my shoulders are very weak. However, I consider my faith in God and the cooperation and trust of my colleagues, political leaders, and all of you in me as my most important source of strength. I believe that with this strength it will not be difficult to fulfill my responsibility and, God willing, I will be able to perform my duty with complete sincerity and ability. I do not claim to know everything. However, I believe in the sacred words of the prophet that all knowledge begins with the fear of God. I thank God that I can claim that I fear God. What I need to pray for is that I will always fear God and act in full conformity with this objective. I would like to request you all to pray for this. Long live Pakistan.

Kabul Charge of Airspace Violation Dismissed

BK2708060788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistan has dismissed the Kabul regime's protest that on 4 August a Pakistani plane penetrated nearly 30 kilometers in the (Shiltan) area of Konar Province for spying purposes. The Kabul charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was told that the allegation had been investigated and found to be baseless. He was asked to convey the Foreign Office's request that the Kabul regime refrain from levelling such fraudulent charges.

First Meeting of Emergency Council Held 27 Aug

BK2808024088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The first meeting of the Emergency Council was held in Islamabad yesterday. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan presided over the meeting, which reviewed the current situation in the country. The council offered prayers for the salvation of the souls of the martyred president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and others who died near Bahawalpur on the 17th of this month. The meeting was attended by all members of the council.

Cabinet Session Reviews Law, Order Situation

BK2808115188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The federal cabinet meeting in Islamabad today reviewed the law and order situation obtaining in the country and gave necessary directions to the agencies concerned. The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, presided. The cabinet expressed satisfaction at the peace and harmony which prevailed on 'Ashura [festival marking the 10th day of Muharram] which passed without any untoward incident. The prices of essential commodities of daily use were also reviewed and decisions were taken to keep them in check.

The cabinet decided to revoke the 6-day working week with effect from the 1st of September for all government and semigovernment offices.

The flood situation in some districts of Sind and the damage caused by excessive rains in some areas in the province were also reviewed. The cabinet decided that maximum possible assistance be extended by the federal government to the Sind government to meet the situation. It expressed its deep concern over the loss of valuable lives in an incident in Jacobabad due to falling of a live electric wire on a bus. It ordered an inquiry into the mishap.

Delhi Notes Split in Pakistan Muslim League

BK2608132488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] The Pakistan Muslim League has formally split into pro-Zia and pro-Junejo factions within 10 days of President Ziaul Haq's death. Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, former governor of the North-West Frontier Province, was chosen president of the pro-Zia faction at a convention in Islamabad today. The other faction, led by the dismissed prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, is scheduled to meet on Monday to assess the situation. The Pakistan Muslim League was the ruling party before the National Assembly was dissolved on 29 May this year.

Opposition Stages Rally, Demands Elections

BK2808125888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Opposition parties in Pakistan have staged a big rally at Quetta demanding replacement of central and provincial governments with the caretaker administration to oversee the elections scheduled for the 16th of November. The leaders called for induction of nonpartisan persons in the administration. They demanded party-based elections and release of political prisoners. It was the first public rally since the death of President Ziaul Haq. The top leadership of the MRD is meeting in Karachi tomorrow to review the latest political situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Supreme Court is to take up a petition filed by the opposition leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, which challenges the concept of nonparty elections. The issue involves the question whether political parties will be allowed to put up their own candidates and use party symbols. Miss Benazir Bhutto's lawyers say a full bench of 11 judges will meet on the 2d of October in Rawalpindi to consider the petition.

Junejo Elected Party Head; Joins MRD Demands

BK2908142688 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Aug 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] And finally, the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who was dismissed by the late General Ziaul Haq in May has been reelected as leader of his faction of the opposition grouping, the Muslim League, and he has joined the growing chorus of opposition calls for the replacement of the federal and provincial governments in Pakistan by a caretaker administration. A report from our correspondent in Islamabad George Arney:

[Begin Arney recording] General Ziaul Haq's proteges, the provincial chief ministers, broke away from Mr Junejo's faction of the Muslim League 3 days ago and appointed their own party president. But the former prime minister still appears to have a significant following. At a meeting in Islamabad today, the camp followers of two Muslim League factions headed by Mr Junejo and the pir of Pagaro voted to merge their respective organizations. Mr Junejo was elected as party president. According to the organizers, over 100 senators and former members of the National Assembly attended the meeting, considerably more than the chief ministers were able to muster.

The chief ministers' strength stems from their control of the administration. They have all the resources and patronage necessary to buy up support and to influence the outcome of the elections. But there is an almost unanimous demand now among opposition political parties for the provincial and federal governments to be dismissed and for a neutral caretaker administration to be installed to oversee the elections.

The opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which is presently meeting in Karachi, has been discussing how to build up pressure for that. Mr Junejo's faction of the Muslim League has also joined the chorus. At today's meeting, it passed a resolution accusing the chief minister of intimidation and hooliganism and saying that they proved by their conduct that fair and impartial elections would not be possible while they remained in power. [end recording]

Sri Lanka

Violence Continues Between IPKF, Tamil Groups

12 LTTE Killed, 11 Wounded

BK2608145988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 12 LTTE militants were killed and 11 injured in exchanges of fire with the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] in the jungle areas around Nittukkai Kulam in the Northern Province. The PKF recovered one AK-47 rifle and a large quantity of ammunition, including hand grenades and improvised mines. An official press release in New Delhi says the PKF is gradually tightening the cordon around the LTTE in areas north of Vavuniya.

LTTE Base Attacked

BK2708033088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text) In Sri Lanka, 10 Sinhalese villagers were killed by suspected LTTE men in (Mahayaya) area of Amparai District in Eastern Province yesterday. According to official sources, the villagers went to the jungles to collect firewood when the militants attacked them.

The PKF smashed through the outer defense of the heavily fortified LTTE base in the Nithikaikulam jungle in northern Sri Lanka yesterday inflicting heavy losses on the militants.

A PKF press release says the base was protected by electrically controlled mines and explosives. It also says one militant was shot dead and six others were captured in Jaffna and Trincomalee sectors.

PKF Officer Killed

BK2908031888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] In northern Sri Lanka, a PKF officer and four LTTE militants have been killed in an encounter. A spokesman of the Indian High Commission in Colombo said five militants were seriously wounded in the shooting which took place in Nithikaikulam village in Wanni area on Saturday [27 August]. The PKF also discovered an LTTE hideout in the same area and recovered a huge quantity of explosives.